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EASTERN

F.O.

371

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 84

pp. 11625 - 12140

CLOSED  
UNTIL

1978

61854

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References  
**FO 371 / 61854**

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11625

1947

PALESTINE

9 DEC

Registry Number E11625/84/31  
 FROM G. Conway  
 No. Barkham  
 Dated 31.9/210/47  
 Received in Registry 29 Nov 9 Dec

Illegal Immigration, R.P.C. Publicity.  
 Refer to letter (E9846/84/21) Information Dept has written requesting script of the news and talks programmes broadcast by the Roumanian Service of the R.P.C. when they arrive they will provide a complete check of Roumanian Service put out by R.P.C. and should give a real basis for comment and constructive suggestion.

Last Paper

11624

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

61854

(Action completed)

G. Conway

(Index)

[Signature]

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11627

(Minutes.)

Information Policy Dept. <sup>RAB</sup> 12/12  
 News Dept. <sup>RAB</sup> 12/12  
 Southern Dept. <sup>RAB</sup> 12/12

[Signature] 10/12

Let us hope that the feeling referred to in the last para. is not universal!

RA Henderson -  
RA Henderson 12/12

[Signature] 24/12

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3  
British Legation,  
Bucharest.

29th November, 1947.

349/210/47

DEC

Dear Eastern Department,

Reference your letter E 9846/84/31 of 31st October, 1947, about publicity about Jewish illegal immigration.

Our Information Department has written requesting the scripts of the news and talks programmes broadcast by the Roumanian Service of the B.B.C. When these start to arrive they will provide a complete check of the Roumanian Service put out by the B.B.C., and should give us a real basis for comment and constructive suggestion.

In the meantime the Information staff are monitoring the Service put out by the B.B.C., and any suggestions or comments based on this monitoring we will put up to you. Unfortunately monitoring does not give a complete picture as from time to time the B.B.C. is inaudible due to voltage fade in Bucharest, so that we may not be able to give you much reliable comment until the scripts arrive.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.



Eastern Department,

Foreign Office.

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PALESTINE

Registry Number E11627/84/21  
FROM  
No. *Blanking*  
Dated *Vienna*  
Received in Registry *6/1/47*  
*6 Dec*  
*9 -*

*Legal Immigration.*  
*After FO despatch 529 (E-10967/84/11)*  
*Encloses two copies of minutes of meeting*  
*held with US and French representatives.*

Last Paper

11625

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

*8/15/47*  
*11/15*  
*Dec 23*

(Action completed)

*J.P. 11/6/47*

(Index)

*[Signature]*  
*11/14/47*

Next Paper

E11639

(Minutes)

*copy to Mr. Jochen M.I. 5*

*Western Dept.*  
*German Pol. Dept. <sup>CAI</sup> 5/1*  
*U.N. (Econ. & Soc.) Dept.*  
*N.A. Dept. <sup>and st</sup>*

*[Signature]*  
*10/12*

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British Legation,  
VIENNA.

61/97/47

6th December, 1947.

Dear Department,

9 DEC

Your despatch No: 529 (E.10967/84/31)  
of November 25th regarding Jewish illegal  
immigration.

We enclose two copies of the minutes  
of the meeting held here with United States and  
French representatives.

We are sending copies to the Chanceries  
at Paris, Rome and Washington.

Yours ever,

Chancery. *N.*

Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

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SECRET

Copy No //

SEC 7036

3rd December 1947.

ALLIED COMMISSION FOR AUSTRIA

(British Element)

MINUTES

of a Meeting to discuss

CLANDESTINE JEWISH MOVEMENT

held in No. 1. Conference Room, Schonbrunn Palace,  
Vienna, on 17th November, 1947 at 1445 hours.

PRESENT

U.K. Brigadier O. L. Jones (In the Chair)

France Lieut-Colonel Chretiennot

U.S.A. Colonel C. E. Hixon

OTHERS PRESENT

U.K.

Brigadier M. W. Hope  
Mr. N.J.A. Cheetham  
Mr. L. J. Perry  
Lieut-Colonel J.W.G. Duncan  
Mr. W.C. Ballance,  
Major A.A. Waterhouse  
Major J. Iremonger  
Mrs. I. Churchill

FRANCE

M. Haulpetit-Fourichon  
M. de la Villebrusne  
M. Kennedy  
Capt. Baudet  
M. Myon.

U.S.A.

Colonel H.T. Brotherton  
Lieut-Colonel R.L. Walton

SECRETARIAT

Colonel P.D. Miller  
Miss J.K. Holland

Distribution:

1 - 3 Lieut-Colonel Chretiennot  
4 - 6 Colonel C.E. Hixon  
7 Brigadier O.L. Jones  
8 Brigadier M.W. Hope  
9 -12 Mr. N.J.A. Cheetham  
13 File  
14-24 Spare.

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1. STATEMENT BY BRITISH MEMBER

BRIGADIER JONES opened the Meeting by saying that the Meeting arose from a suggestion made by General Cherriere. The British Element had welcomed the suggestion and had invited the French and US Elements to this Meeting in the hope that a free and frank discussion might lead to some assistance from the French and US Elements in diminishing the illegal Jewish movement which was causing a considerable embarrassment to HMG. There was considerable danger of the Cyprus Camps being grossly overcrowded during the winter.

Austria was astride the main route from Eastern Europe to Italy and to France. In Italy a reservoir of some 30,000 Jewish refugees had piled up as a result of the tightening up by the Italian authorities of the security of their coast line. Any further movement out of Austria would be an embarrassment to the Italian authorities and would in turn create a further potential strain on the Cyprus Camps. There were about 27,000 Jewish refugees in Austria mainly in the American Zone and he understood that the movement into Austria was continuing although at a somewhat reduced rate.

The British Commander-in-Chief had already asked the Soviet Commander-in-Chief if he would help to stop the entry of these illegal immigrants into Austria, and the Soviet Commander-in-Chief had given his assurance that he would do so. The US Element would be in a position to know the results of this approach.

The object of the British Element is to try to prevent further illegal movement out of Austria, a movement which if it continues will undoubtedly cause considerable hardship and suffering. BRIGADIER JONES concluded by pointing out that there was danger of other powers using the stream of illegal immigrants as a means of placing agents in the Western Zones of Austria, and at the same time there was a danger that they might attempt to use the Jewish problem as a means to damaging the harmony of Anglo/American relations in particular.

2. STATEMENT BY US MEMBER

COLONEL HIXON stated that the illegal movement of Jews was originally started by the pogroms in Poland and Czechoslovakia, and up to date some 110,000 Jews had entered Austria and in particular Vienna and the US Zone. Of this number some 40,000 had been transferred legally to Germany and there were now some 26,000 in the US Zone. In consequence some 50,000 Jews had left Austria illegally. In April 1946 the US Element had been instructed by Washington that the military authorities were to give no aid to the travel of illegal immigrants.

The US Element had also asked the Soviet Element to stop this flow, and had asked the Jewish Welfare Committees in Austria to pass word back to the Balkan countries to stop this illegal flow pointing out that the US Element in Austria could not guarantee any further help or sustenance in Austria. The US Element had also just made a similar approach through Jewish channels to Poland and Czechoslovakia. At present the flow in Vienna and the US Zone of Austria averaged about 90 per day.

/COLONEL HIXON.....

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COLONEL HIXON said that the US Element would do everything it could from a practical point of view to stop or reduce this flow of refugees, but he must point out that their hands were tied if they were unable to stop the flow into Austria. The US Element had closed the Jewish Camps at Bad Gastein and Bad Ischl and had transferred their inmates into barracks near Linz. The accommodation available to these illegal immigrants was now 95% full and the US Element were unable to use appropriated funds to requisition further accommodation for them. In consequence if it was impossible to stop the flow into Austria they would be unable to detain those whom they were unable to accommodate. In his opinion the illegal immigrants who could not be accommodated by the US Element would suffer less in the climate of Italy than in that of the US Zone of Austria.

He pointed out the difficulty of controlling the illegal immigrants and the difficulty of getting accurate identifications. For example there were cases where the same name had been on the camp roll since 1945 and he knew well that some 5 or 6 persons had used this name.

In reply to a question by BRIGADIER JONES, COLONEL HIXON said that their approach through the Jewish Committees to the Balkan countries had resulted in a slight pause but the flow had recommenced again in October and they had made further representations. He had unofficial information that this flow is likely to slow up but there was no real indication to this effect as yet although the flow was now somewhat less than in October.

In reply to a further question from BRIGADIER JONES, COLONEL HIXON said that the US authorities in Germany had been asked on several occasions if they would accept the overflow from Austria, but these requests had been refused on every occasion except when the 40,000, previously mentioned were accepted. COLONEL HIXON emphasised that when the population reached saturation point the US authorities could not forcibly detain the numbers in excess to those they could accommodate. General Keyes wanted to send them to Germany but he would be unable to do so without permission from the US authorities in Germany.

3. STATEMENT BY FRENCH MEMBER

LIEUT.-COLONEL CHRETIENNOT said that he was aware of the British anxiety concerning these illegal immigrants and the French Element was also worried, as the accommodation, feeding and maintenance of the Jews in the French Zone created a considerable problem. He pointed out that the French Zone was a transit zone for these illegal immigrants and that they only had one camp which now held 386 Jews. Since the 1st January this year, 3,139 illegal immigrants had attempted to pass the frontier of which 2,671 had been sent back. The French Zone could not take any more illegal immigrants.

LIEUT.-COLONEL CHRETIENNOT pointed out that the frontiers of the French Zone were very difficult to guard as they were over 1,000 kilometers in length, for which there were only 800 frontier guards. The French Element has already issued instructions to tighten up the checking at Kufstein and on the Brenner where the guards had been reinforced,

/He considered ....

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He considered that the problem should be dealt with on a wider scale and that the best solution was to stop the immigration at source. His Commander-in-Chief had written to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs requesting that approach be made to the Polish and Czechoslovakian Governments and to the Commander-in-Chief of the French Zone of Germany. Meanwhile the French Element was ready to help in any way that lay within their power.

4. POINTS RAISED BY BRITISH MEMBER

BRIGADIER JONES then circulated the memorandum attached as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes.

LIEUT.-COLONEL CHRETIENNOT said that he did not agree with the accuracy of the figures given in the Memorandum, but this in no way affected the principles involved.

THE MEETING:

4. agreed to discuss the suggested preventative measures in detail.

5. PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

(a) Further Approach to the Soviet Element

All three members agreed that a tripartite approach to the Soviet Element was undesirable. LIEUT.-COLONEL CHRETIENNOT said that he did not think that the French Element could make an approach to the Soviet Element on this matter as there was no direct contact between the French and Soviet Zones.

COLONEL HIXON said the US Commander-in-Chief had already written to the Soviet Commander-in-Chief on this subject with little result.

BRIGADIER JONES said the British Element would consider a further approach to the Soviet Element regarding the practice of Austrian frontier posts summoning transport from agencies in Vienna to bring in illegal immigrants.

(b) Stricter Frontier Control

In reply to a question by BRIGADIER JONES as to whether it was possible for the US Element to make it harder for illegal Jewish immigrants to be accepted in the US Zone of Vienna, COLONEL HIXON said that if the illegal immigrants arrived in Vienna the US Element was unable to put any pressure on the Jewish Welfare Agencies not to accept them.

LIEUT.-COLONEL CHRETIENNOT pointed out that the flow of illegal immigrants from the US Zone of Austria normally came through the US Zone of Germany. He suggested that the US Element should ask the US Zone in Germany to assist in stopping this movement.

COLONEL HIXON said that there was very little movement from the US Zone of Germany into the US Zone of Austria.

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(c) Stricter Inter-zonal Frontier Control.

COLONEL HIXON said that the US Element had received instructions to the effect that they could not use force to prevent entry into their zone. The US forces in their zone were deployed on occupational duties within the zone but he would examine as to whether he could reinforce the US/French inter-zonal frontier.

(d) More Definite Instructions to the Austrian Gendarmerie.

LIEUT.-COLONEL CHRETIENNOT considered that this would be best done by a letter to the Ministry of Interior from the Allied Council and in consequence quadripartite approval would be necessary.

COLONEL HIXON was of the opinion that any instructions issued to the Austrian gendarmerie should only refer to the outer boundaries of Austria. He pointed out that once an illegal immigrant was in Austria the Austrians would do everything in their power to assist their passage through and out of Austria.

BRIGADIER JONES then enquired as to whether, if the British Element put up a paper for quadripartite discussion on this subject, would the French and US Members give it their support.

LIEUT.-COLONEL CHRETIENNOT assented.

COLONEL HIXON said he felt sure the US Commander-in-Chief would support any proposals regarding making the entry into Austria more difficult but he doubted if he would be prepared to give any undertaking concerning the departure from Austria of these illegal immigrants.

BRIGADIER JONES then pointed out that it was a quadripartite misdemeanour to allow refugees to pass interzonal boundaries unless they were properly documented with a group pass.

(e) Enforcement of 10 Kilometres Restrictions on Displaced Persons.

Both COLONEL HIXON and LIEUT.-COLONEL CHRETIENNOT said that there were no such restrictions on movement of displaced persons in their zones and it would not be politic to introduce such restrictions at this stage.

(f) Italian Co-operation.

BRIGADIER JONES thought there was no more we could do in this matter as the Italians were at present giving every possible assistance in the matter.

THE MEETING:

5 (a) agreed that the results of this Meeting should be communicated to the Italian authorities by the British Element through diplomatic channels.

(g) Acceptance Back of Immigrants Caught Crossing the Frontier.

COLONEL HIXON said the US Element had made an agreement with the French Element to accept back illegal immigrants from the US Zone found in the French Zone.

LIEUT.-COLONEL CHRETIENNOT said the French authorities would take back from the Italian authorities any illegal immigrants, providing they had passed from the French Zone and from the US Zone once the US authorities had agreed to accept them back into their zone. Those from the US Zone would be passed back to the US authorities.

/COLONEL HIXON .....

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COLONEL HIXON said that the US authorities would accept these provided that it were proved that they had come from the US Zone.

(h) Supervision of Agencies Assisting Movement

COLONEL HIXON said that the US authorities could not remove the uniforms from the AJDC without removing them from all other agencies such as the Quakers. In his opinion this was impracticable. As regards the painting of vehicles he regretted that there was not enough paint in Austria to do this.

In reply to a question from BRIGADIER JONES he agreed that the 5 pointed star on non-US Forces vehicles should be obliterated.

BRIGADIER JONES suggested that the subject of documentation was too detailed for them to discuss and that this should be dealt in detail by the experts concerned. He also suggested that the authority for movement should be given by IRO and not by AJDC.

THE MEETING:

5 (b) agreed that a Meeting of experts should discuss documentation at 1430 hours, 20th November 1947 in Schönbrunn Palace.

(i) AJDC Camps in Italy

In reply to a question by BRIGADIER JONES, COLONEL HIXON said the US Element would examine as to whether they could bring pressure to bear on the AJDC to shut down their two camps mentioned in Paragraph C (iv) in the Memorandum at Appendix 'A'.

(j) Control of Movement

BRIGADIER JONES said we would approach IRO concerning the patronage which we know they give to the Jewish organisations who sponsor this illegal movement.

LIEUT.-COLONEL CHRETIENNOT pointed out that the agreement which IRO has with the French Element shows that IRO co-ordinate such organisations.

COLONEL HIXON said that the US agreement was similar to that made by the French Element. However, in his opinion he did not think that any pressure on IRO or AJDC would stop this illegal movement.

(k) Exchange of Information

The three members agreed that they would keep each other fully informed on this illegal Jewish movement through the agency of their Intelligence and G-2 branches.

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Memorandum on Item 4 of the Agenda

(a) Movement into Austria

(i) Movement into Austria is mainly from the East via Hungary and Czechoslovakia to Vienna. Mass movement started about March/April 1947, reaching its peak about July/August 1947 when about 1500 Jews were arriving weekly in Vienna. The number has decreased gradually to about 600 weekly at the present time.

(ii) Movement from both Czechoslovakia and Hungary to Vienna is by well-organised routes and organisation for such movement is known to exist. From Vienna the Jews move on to DP Camps in the US Zone of Austria.

(iii) Some movement from Germany into the US and French Zones takes place en route for Italy. Exact figures are NOT known, but this movement is estimated at about 300 weekly.

(b) Movement out of Austria

(i) During the summer large numbers were crossing direct from the US Zone of Austria into Italy via the KRIMML Pass, the only direct route from the US Zone of Austria into Italy. Numbers are estimated to have been in the neighbourhood of 500 weekly.

(ii) The present main route out of Austria into Italy is from the US Zone into the French Zone, and into Italy over the BRENNER and RESIA (near the Swiss border) Passes. The Resia Pass is at present the chief exit point and numbers are estimated to be about 500 weekly.

(iii) Jews travelling into France move from the US Zone of Austria to the US Zone of Germany. Numbers are estimated to be less than those making for Italy.

(c) Assembly Points

(i) There are 4 main DP Camps in Vienna, which serve as transit camps for Jews arriving in Vienna on their way to the US Zone of Austria.

(ii) It is understood that the two main assembly points for Jews on their way to Italy are the BINDERMICHL Camp, Linz, and SALLFELDEN Camp near ZELL-AM-SEE.

(iii) In the French Zone of Austria they are accommodated at GULDENWALD Camp near HALL.

(iv) It is understood that the AJDC have set up two assembly centres at CASERE and BRUNICO in Italy.

(d) Assistance given to clandestine movement

(i) Voluntary Societies. The main relief organisation assisting these illegal immigrants is the American Joint Distribution Committee, which clothes, accommodates and finances these Jews. This committee further arranges to pick up the groups of Jews arriving illegally from the East at the frontier, and transports them through the Russian Zone to Vienna, in lorries hired for this purpose from Austrian contractors. The AJDC and the JAFP (Jewish Agency for Palestine),

/which is.....

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which is believed also to be implicated, wear US type uniform, without badges of rank, and enjoy the facilities of PCIRO accommodation etc. The transport used for the groups of Jews being moved by AJDC through the US Zone and the French Zones of Austria, and in Italy, is apparently US and often marked UNRRA. The drivers of these vehicles wear US uniform without badges of rank and carry apparent US papers. On one occasion 7/8 May a jeep with a man dressed in US uniform and armed is stated to have accompanied 500 Jews entering the French Zone from the US Zone illegally.

(ii) The Russian Element has assured us in writing of their willingness to prevent the Jews entering Austria from the East. Nevertheless, the Austrian gendarmerie who are on the Czech and Hungarian frontiers telephone the AJDC to send transport for these Jews, rather than make any effort to return them to the country from which they have entered. In the US Zone of Austria it is clear that the Austrian gendarmerie do nothing to hinder movement of Jews into the French Zone or into Italy and refuse to accept back from the Italians any illegal frontier-crossers caught by the Italians crossing the Austro-Italian frontier. In the French Zone the zealotness of the Austrian gendarmerie on the Italian frontier would appear to be in doubt in prevention of exit, and they are known to have refused to accept back illegal frontier crossers caught by the Italian frontier-control authorities.

(iii) Documentation. Jewish DPs appear to travel either with a "pink pass" or on collective DP passes. Many travelling to Italy are documented for ultimate destination to S. America, though it is clear that little check has been made on the validity of their intention to travel to S. America. There is a lively trade in Austria in forged passes of all descriptions, and the obtaining of fake documents appears to present little difficulty to Jewish DPs. An example of this is GASIOR Henoah, detained in connection with the MEDLOC 'C' derailment case in August 1947, who was in possession of a fake Austrian identity card.

(e) Suggested Preventive Measures

(i) Further approach to the Russians for continuance of their cooperation in preventing entry into Austria via the Russian Zone.

(ii) Stricter frontier control:  
(a) Austro-German; (b) Austro-Italian.

(iii) Stricter inter-zonal frontier control - mainly US-French zonal frontiers.

(iv) More definite instructions to the Austrian gendarmerie.

(v) Enforcement of 10 km. restriction on DPs.

(vi) Fostering of Italian cooperation.

(vii) Acceptance back of immigrants caught crossing a zonal or national frontier.

(viii) Stricter supervision of agencies assisting movement:  
(a) No uniforms.  
(b) Army vehicles sold to agencies to show clearly they are no longer army vehicles.  
(c) Prevention of false documentation and stricter control of issue of documents.

(ix) Any other measures.

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E 11639

1947

PALESTINE

10 DEC

14

Registry Number

11639/84/21

FROM

Clareway

No.

Moscow

Dated

172/97/47

Received in Registry

1 Dec

10 -

Intelligence report on "Northlands"

Apex (E 9982/84/21) were unable to find any evidence to justify the charges implicit in the writer's conclusions to the report.

To say that this is a point in common between Russian policy and that of the Jewish Agency is rather misleading.

Last Paper.

11627

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

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8, Mr de Lytle  
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(Action completed.)

L.C. 11/23/47

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Next Paper.

11642

(Minutes.)

I agree with Moscow. The alleged idea that Jewish illegal immigration is part of the Russian anti-British campaign in the M.E. is exaggerated. The traffic would exist if there were no Russians in the world.

copy to: Cabinet Office } usual names  
M.I.5 }  
C.O. }  
and under P/L to:

Dr. J. B. Bennett

Northern Dept. 23/12/47  
Southern Dept.  
T.D.H.  
22/12

J. B. Bennett  
C.S. Cable  
10/12

JB Dec 10

copy to M.I. 5a (w.o.)

J. B. Bennett  
24/12

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E 11639  
10 DEC

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
MOSCOW.

1st December, 1947.

172/97/47

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Department,

Your despatch No. 1180 of November 14th enclosing an intelligence report on the arrival of "s.s. Northlands" in Haifa on October 3rd.

Although the report contains interesting data on the passengers and conditions on the ship, we were unable to find in it any evidence to justify the charges implicit in the writer's conclusions. No doubt the Soviet authorities in Bulgaria and Roumania permit this illegal traffic, and may also use the opportunity to infiltrate their own Communist trainees into the ranks of these Jewish immigrants. At any rate the Jews are moving through Soviet-occupied Europe, and the Soviet authorities could stop them if they chose. But they do not choose, which is in a sense connivance. This is no doubt what the writer of the report meant to imply. But to say that this is a point in common between Russian policy and that of the Jewish Agency is rather misleading. It does not appear likely that the Russians will ever openly betray their hand in illegal immigration.

Would/

Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office.

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No. 524

(325/294/47)

511642

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HIS Majesty's Ambassador **IO JEG** at Rome  
presents his compliments to H.M. Principal Secretary of State for  
Foreign Affairs,  
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Embassy,

Rome.

1947

3rd. December, 1947

Reference to previous correspondence :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of Note Verbale to Ministry of Foreign Affairs No. 723 of 3/12/47.	Jewish Illegal Immigration Shipping.

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of the Public Records Act, 1958

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References

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11880

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11 DEC

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E11686/84/31

FROM

P. E. Emerson

No.

The Hague

Dated

9/8/47

Received in Registry

2 Dec

11 ~

Dr ISADORE KAHN

was astounded to learn that KAHN had used his name in connection with his activities in the US.

Transmit same news re Dr KAHN and P.O.A.

Last Paper

11684

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

to Scher. M. 15  
✓ Dec 13

(Action completed)

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9/8/48

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11687

(Minutes.)

copy to Mr. Scher (N.I.S.)

Now re E11724

J. 12/12

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FILE/98/47.

Tel. No.  
182660

*Enter E - soon.* 22  
**BRITISH EMBASSY**  
Commercial Department  
Laan 19  
**THE HAGUE** E

2nd December, 1947.

Dear Cable,

Referring to your telephone call on 1st December, concerning Dr. Isidor Kahn. I should like to say that I was astounded to learn that he had made use of my name in connection with his activities in the U.S.A., of which I had no previous knowledge whatever, although they might eventually prove to be perfectly legitimate. But he neither asked, nor did I give permission, for him to use my name as a reference in any of his business activities.

I first made his acquaintance a year or two prior to the war when he placed his cinema in The Hague (The Capitol) at the disposal of the British Legion (Hague Branch) for a film show one evening; which was attended by the Minister (Sir Hubert Montgomery now deceased), and other members of the British Legation and Corps Diplomatique. At that time I was Hon. Treasurer of the British Legion in The Hague, but did not negotiate with him for the use of the cinema, which was arranged by the Hon. Secretary.

I must admit, however, that Dr. Kahn was always very pro-British, and on our return to Holland after the liberation he looked us up, no doubt by way of appreciation for our war effort and his consequent release from internment, and on one or two occasions he invited me and Mrs. Emerson to dinner to tell us of his war time experiences and the loss of all other members of his family, except his wife and son who were in America and the United Kingdom, respectively, the latter having served in the Dutch Mercantile Marine during the war.

Dr. Kahn's experiences in internment camps naturally left him in a poor state of health, and he made two or three trips to America to see his wife and spend a holiday in California and Florida; on the last occasion, from which I understand he has just returned, he said he was going to spend sometime on his friends' yacht round about Long Island.

During his absence on this trip I received a call from his son, who said he had been on the telephone to his father in the States, and had been advised to call on me in connection with renewal of a visa for Palestine. On inspecting his passport I found that he had already been granted one or two and had been admitted to Haifa by the Immigration Authorities, as a member of the crew of a vessel belonging to the Atid Navigation Company.

I therefore saw no objection to passing young Kahn on to Mr. Springett of our Visa Section, who to-day informs me that according to his records the Atid Navigation Co., are established in America, Holland and Palestine (Haifa), but that up to the moment his application for authority to renew the visa has not been answered. In the meantime Springett's interest in the case has been aroused and he has promised to assist in making enquiries about the activities of the Atid Navigation Company, although up to the moment nothing detrimental has come to light concerning this company and it is not unlikely that they are confining themselves to legitimate import and export trade. Our people in Palestine could no doubt provide information on this point.

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J.E. CABLE. ESQ.

CONTD.

It is quite possible that the "Maternal Frederick C. Johnson" is destined for the Atid Navigation Co., and I shall raise this point when I see Dr. Kahn.

As I have said above he was always very pro-British but since blood is thicker than water his own race is no doubt his first love. Nevertheless, although his present action arouses some suspicion in existing circumstances, I think we must keep an open mind on the subject until further information becomes available. I believe him to be a wealthy man, approaching sixty years of age, with a son of about 25, for whom he might be endeavouring to lay the foundations of a career in the shipping trade after war circumstances have led his footsteps in that direction.

Meantime, we must of course take whatever precautions we can to avoid heaping more trouble on the heads of our sorely tried compatriots in the Middle East. As soon as I have anything further to report I shall let you know, but have thought it advisable to send the above by way of preliminary information.

Yours sincerely,

*L. E. Emera*

J.E. Cable, Esq.,  
Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
LONDON.S.W.1.

-----

P.S. I have just learnt from his Hotel at Scheveningen that Dr Kahn is not due back until 8th December. *EE*  
*L. E. Emera 3/12/47*

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PALESTINE

E 11710

11 DEC

Registry  
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received  
in Registry

E 11716/84/31

J. G. Ward

Embassy

Rome

5-27

Dec 4

- 11

Illegal Immigration, Italy.

Re Rome dispatch 490 (E 10989/84/21) Give  
report on meeting between members of Embassy  
Staff and Mr. Mighale and Director General  
of Political Affairs on subject of illegal entry  
of Jews to Italy via the borders frontier.

Last Paper

11714

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Ruck. H.O.

Higham. P.O.

Jehon. M.I. 5

✓ Dec 18

(Action  
completed)

J. E. 11/18

(Index)

11/18

Next Paper

11718

(Minutes.)

Copies to:

Home Office (Mr. Ruck)

Colonial Office (Mr. Higham)

M.I. 5 (Mr. Jehon)

and re-submit with Buchenwald tel. no. 1352  
and Vienna tel. no. 1084

Done

J. E.

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No. 527

(369/51/47)

British Embassy,

ROME.

December 4th 1947.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 490 of 19th November about Jewish illegal immigration, I have the honour to inform you that members of my staff attended a meeting on 1st December with the Director-General of Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Dr. Migliore, Head of the Aliens Department of the Ministry of the Interior, on the subject of the illegal entry of Jews to Italy via the northern frontier. A suitably expurgated version of Mr. Ruck's report and a memorandum prepared by Mr. Perry and our experts on the latest situation regarding the frontier (copies of which are enclosed) had previously been delivered to Count Zoppi, and saved as a basis of discussion for the meeting.

2. Our representatives began by emphasising that, in spite of the decision to leave Palestine during next year, His Majesty's Government were still determined to maintain their immigration policy in the interim. They pointed out that illegal immigration of Jews from Austria was continuing unabated, and invited comment on the memorandum referred to above and on Mr. Ruck's suggestions for improvement of Italian frontier control.

3. Count Zoppi's tone was frank and helpful, and he rallied Dr. Migliore on the lack of initiative shown by the Ministry of the Interior in controlling the American Joint Distribution Committee vehicles and personnel aiding Jewish traffic, the International Relief Organisation Jewish camps and Hachsharoths and undesirable aliens in general. Dr. Migliore made the usual reference to practical difficulties, e.g. shortage of police (due to the Peace Treaty), the strain on their resources imposed by current political disturbances, continual unofficial pressure by Jewish interests, etc. He said, however, that "an offensive against aliens" in Italy was now starting, and that after the final departure of Allied forces the proper registration of all vehicles in circulation and other measures would be enforced.

4. The upshot of the discussion was that Count Zoppi informed our representatives that the following action would be taken:-

(a) He was attending a meeting this week with the Ministry of Defence at which the question of refugee camps would be considered from a security angle. It was proposed that these camps should be reduced in number and concentrated in a few areas away from the main cities.

/He would

The Right Honourable  
Ernest Bevin, M.P.,  
etc., etc., etc.,  
Foreign Office,  
London, S.W.1.

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He would tackle the International Refugee Organisation in the same sense on the question of Hachsharoths. He also agreed to take steps to prevent the maintenance or establishment by the American Joint Distribution Committee of hostels serving illegal entrants in the frontier area.

(b) Italian Consulates in Central and Eastern Europe would be instructed in future not to issue collective transit visas for Italy and not to issue transit visas to individuals without checking that applicants had regular tickets for onward passage to their destination. Individual passports would be demanded in future. The Italian representative in Prague would be asked to investigate the report in Bucharest telegram No. 1352.

(c) An announcement would be published in the press warning all parties that vehicles found engaging in illegal activities would be sequestrated.

(d) Count Zoppi was doubtful if Ruck's suggestions for improvement of the Italian system of frontier control, e.g. more transport, telephones, etc., for the police could be implemented in view of lack of resources, but agreed that the question should be studied at a meeting on the spot by frontier authorities with Mr. Perry.

5. Count Zoppi returned in conclusion to the old proposal that Jews caught crossing the frontier should be returned to the British Zone of Austria. Could not the British, who were the most interested party, make some sacrifice in this direction? Our representatives explained that this proposal was not feasible, but informed him that the meeting in Vienna reported in Vienna telegram No. 1084 showed that the French and United States authorities were showing a more co-operative attitude. Mr. Perry also stated (though this was not mentioned in Vienna telegram No. 1084) that the French representative had agreed at the meeting to accept back from Italy all illegal frontier crossers proved to have come from the French zone. The Italian representatives were sceptical of French good faith, but said they would telegraph to the Italian Consul in Innsbruck to take the French up on this statement. He also suggested that Mr. Perry should shortly visit the Italian Consul, and try to co-ordinate action by French and Italian frontier officials. This was agreed to.

6. Our general impression is that the Italian Government are genuinely concerned about the aliens problem, and that after 15th December a more determined effort than they have hitherto thought possible will be made to get it under control, especially since Displaced Persons Camps are regarded as potential centres of political intrigue. This meeting has served to keep their mind on the specifically Jewish aspect. It was clear, however, from Count Zoppi's remarks that they have no intention of burning their fingers

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by drastic action against Jewish refugees as such. Moreover their police are likely to have their hands too full in coping with political disturbances during the next few months to be able to concentrate much attention on preventing the transit of Jews through Italy.

7. A copy of this despatch is being sent to His Majesty's Minister at Vienna.

I have the honour to be,  
With the highest respect,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient, humble Servant,

JGward

(for H.M. Ambassador)

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- 4. Possible crossing places on the rest of the frontier are those leading down the valleys of AURINA to BRUNICO; down the group of valleys of VIZZE, VIPIITENA (BRENNER), FLERES, and REDANNA to near VIPIITENO; down the Passiria to SAN LEONARDO; and down the valley of the ADIGE (RESIA) with lesser valleys converging at MALLEES.
- 5. The passes into the AURINA carry only tracks up to CASERE but although over 2,500 metres high, they may be crossed in summer without much difficulty. Only the FORCELLO DEL PICCO (Birnlücke) is properly within the narrow American Zone (Sälzburg) frontier but the Passo dei TAURI and others nearby can be reached by passing from the American for a short distance into the French Zone.
- 6. The passes from the French Zone (Tyrol) leading to VIPIITENO and S. LEONARDO are with the exception of the FLERES Valley, longer, higher and more difficult.
- 7. Those to the west of the RESIA Pass, and there seem to be many tracks between the RESIA Frontier Control and the Swiss Frontier, are obviously the easiest to cross. The ground rises comparatively gently from the road and there are military roads and paths to the frontier all within the cover of pine woods. These tracks and roads either lead back to S. VALENTINO and thence by bridge to the main road or continue towards MALLEES. Thus from the point of view of accessibility, the RESIA Region is most likely to be chosen by illegal crossers; next the AURINA; and lastly the BRENNER, where however there are also tracks on either side of the Valley. But the other more difficult passes would present no difficulty in summer to active determined persons.
- 8. The system of frontier control is in the main similar in each of the three districts controlled by the commissario of the Pubblica Sicurezza. Each commissario has his headquarters at or near the authorised frontier crossing and here the control is made jointly with the Pubblica Sicurezza, the Guardia di Finanza, and the Carabinieri (military police) and there are posts in charge of a Brigadiere at various strategic points along the frontiers. Not all the minor crossing places are controlled by P.S. in which case the control is left to detachments of the Guardia Finanza and Carabinieri. Control is effected either by detachments placed on or near the frontier or by patrols on the road or path just inside the frontier areas. In addition there are patrols of G.F. and Carabinieri on the main roads further back. In theory any illegal crossers are stopped at or near the frontier and are escorted back whence they came or if this is impracticable are taken to the nearest pass and sent back by more convenient routes. If any succeed in passing this first line they should be stopped by the road patrols and returned in the same way.

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9. In the AURINA illegal crossers are collected at CASERE and are sent back over one or other of the passes, as far as possible over the one by which they entered. This entails a trek of up to 10 km to the frontier by the escorting guards and where the parties are upwards of 100 it is necessary to split them up and make several journeys. In the RESIA Area, since the French authorities refuse to accept back any who have not arrived by the main road, the Italian guards take them back to that part of the frontier over which they crossed. In the VIPITENA the French have agreed to take back over the BRENNER road any who have been caught actually crossing the frontier in the neighbourhood.

10. While the system in each district is similar, its efficiency varies according to local conditions: the facilities and the staff at the commissario's disposal being important factors. Although it is admittedly desirable to have a post of P.S. at or near to the possible frontier crossings this cannot be done at present owing to -

- a) shortage of staff
- b) the difficulty of housing and victualling the posts
- c) the lack of communication by telephone and road transport. Only the commissari at RESIA and BRENNER have a jeep a piece (which is the only form of transport suitable to rough mountain roads) and where reliance has to be placed on patrols by the G.F. or the Carabinieri there is admittedly some loss of efficiency due to the fact that these services are not directly under the control of the P.S.

11. In passing over many kilometres of road and track in the RESIA area for example in broad daylight and good weather, I saw only one patrol. In bad weather or at night it would be possible for hundreds of people to pass without being seen. Of course, the argument is that the patrols on the roads further back would intercept illegal crossers who had passed the frontier guards and in point of fact they are reported to do so frequently but here again it is possible at many places to leave the road and to rejoin it later. It is doubtful whether the patrols would succeed without a road barrier in stopping cars - no attempt was made to stop mine on any occasion. Therefore if illegal crossers were picked up by lorries or other vehicles they would almost certainly get through.

## II. Success of Illegal Crossers

12. My impression is that the Italian commissari and the head commissario are alive to the position and are doing their best to cope with it in spite of their lack of facilities. The personnel

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seem discouraged, however, by the sheer persistence of the Jewish immigrants. On the face of it therefore although everything possible seems to be done by the Italian frontier police authorities to prevent illegal crossings and to return those who enter illegally, it is admitted that many succeed in getting through. It would seem that the majority of those who succeed do so in the RESIA area; in fact I was told by peasants near S. VALENTINO that while some are intercepted by the carabinieri others succeed in eluding them as the crossings are made at night and this can well be believed. Further, the return of any intercepted is complicated by the refusal of the French authorities to accept them back through the main road.

13. It seems impossible to estimate with anything approaching accuracy the numbers who succeed in getting through. Assuming that the greater number enter in the RESIA Area where the numbers picked up and returned recently have been in the neighbourhood of 50 to 100 a week and that an equal number get through, this figure may be taken as a guide. It is not thought that greater numbers succeed in entering because of the difficulty of keeping large numbers of people together at night, even supposing them to be escorted by their own guides, as has been reported, but also because of the lack of sufficient shelter in farm buildings in the confined space of the valleys. It is not impossible however that with good organisation greater numbers may have succeeded at times in passing undetected. It is said that when parties are escorted back to the frontier a difficult task as the escorts have frequently to carry young children, they just wait where they are left and make another attempt either immediately or the next day. It is obvious that illegal crossers must be escorted from the Austrian side up to the frontier and given food, otherwise only the fittest would ever get through. It is not impossible that none of those who are returned ever actually re-enter the camps in the French or American Zones whence they started, but eventually succeed by dint of perseverance in reaching Merano or Bolzano and eventually Milan, as they obviously could not do so on foot therefore they must be picked up somewhere on route.

III. Help given to Illegal Crossers

14. There is no question whatever that without help on both sides of the frontier illegal crossers would have scant success. Members of the A.J.D.C. frequently pass along the authorised roads in jeeps. They wear United States uniform and are provided with regular documents and visas and they are therefore never questioned by the frontier officials. I have seen jeeps with people in US uniform travelling at high speeds along the roads. It is said that Jewish guides who know the passes well are used to conduct parties. It is quite obvious that illegal crossers are picked upon the road in lorries or

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even in private cars and driven to MERANO and on to MILAN, 3 private lorries found to have been so used have been confiscated, they had been hired in MILAN. It seems unlikely that they would receive any help from the local peasant population for the primary reason that they are ardent Catholics and secondly because they possess few suitable vehicles available for the transport of human beings. Transport, therefore, must be provided by helpers well within ITALY.

IV. 15. Weak Points in Control of Frontier

These may be summarised as follows:

- a) the absence of control posts at or near all possible crossing points
- b) the inadequacy of staff to maintain effective patrols on all paths and roads immediately behind the frontier.
- c) the ineffectiveness of patrols on the main roads.
- d) the necessity of trying to return illegal crossers over difficult passes rather than by the main road as at the BRENNER.
- e) the lack of transport to take parties back supposing that main roads could be used.
- f) the psychological effect:
  - i) upon personnel of the control services of the impossibility of stopping illegal entry by present methods.
  - ii) on patrols of whatever service who are engaged on continuous and long spells of duty in lonely places.
- g) the secondary interest taken by the G.F. whose main concern is the illegal entry and exit of goods (there is much smuggling by local inhabitants)
- h) lack of transport, petrol, telephones and other facilities to enable supervising officers to make frequent tours of inspection and to enable outposts to keep in touch with their HQ.
- i) lack of contact by the police with local inhabitants due probably to the inherent fear of peasants of becoming embroiled with the authorities.
- j) the absence of any means of picking up illegal entrants at the various D.P. camps and Jewish shelters through police registration, with consequent proceedings and deportation.

.../V. Remedies

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V. 16. Remedies

Something could be done in the following directions:

- a) Where the frontier forces are inadequate mobile detachments of carabinieri might be drafted temporarily into forward areas or if these should not be available local troops might be detailed to collaborate with the commissario. Such carabinieri or troops might well help the frontier control services in collecting and escorting back illegal entrants.
- b) Army transports should be used for this purpose and an attempt made with the opposite French authorities to reach agreement to receive back any person caught near the frontier where there is no possible doubt that they have in fact just entered illegally. As this has been agreed to at BRENNER, it seems possible that a similar agreement might be reached at RESIA.
- c) Instead of patrols on the main roads to MERANO and BOLZANO, road barriers would be more effective and all vehicles should be stopped and examined. This should not unduly hamper legitimate traffic for in most cases only a casual glance inside a bus or other closed vehicle would suffice to show that the passengers were above board. If any suspected illegal entrants were found they should be driven back under escort or transferred to Army vehicles and driven back. At many places the road barrier may well be at the railway level crossings.
- d) Italian army jeeps with the necessary petrol supplies should be lent for the rest of the summer to the P.S. in order to maintain adequate communications with the control posts.
- e) I would suggest that the Italian commissari be permitted to enter the French Zones and consult with the Italian representatives there so that arrangements may be made for information to be passed if large movements towards the frontier are reported.
- f) Some means should be found to overcome the present difficulty of ascertaining who has entered the country illegally in recent months. The registration of D.P.'s in camps should be proceeded with and the police should be authorised to detain those who have recently arrived. They should be authorised to obtain information about help given to illegal crossers.

.....VI Conclusions

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VI. Conclusions

17. I have today had a further discussion with the head commissario at BOLZANO. He claims that recently a road barrier has at night been erected at SPONDIGNA back from RESIA. Other road barriers would be set up if accommodation for the detachments could be found. He agrees that the forces on the ground are inadequate. The number of P.S. in the whole area is at present 177 and of G.F. 582. A further 100 P.S. recruits from the training school are expected at the end of this month. He agrees also that a check of vehicles at BOLZANO through which all traffic going to MILAN must pass is desirable, and has requested the Questore to institute this. More carabinieri or even troops to support the frontier controls would be useful. Great stress was laid on the difficulty of finding accommodation for personnel. Requisitioning is not possible, and the military have so far refused to loan barrack accommodation. He thought that by the end of this summer when the high passes cannot be crossed until next June many of the present difficulties would be over. Greater numbers of staff could then be concentrated in the RESIA Valley where the passes are normally open in winter. By next year the frontier force should be up to reasonable strength; but he pointed out that in this difficult mountain country the efficiency of the control cannot be 100 per cent.

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Final Report

VII. Conditions on Frontier and Organisation of Controls

18. I have had further opportunities of investigating conditions on both sides of the frontier. My later impressions are given below, the bracketed references being to paragraphs of the previous report.

19. (Paragraph 11). There has lately been a marked increase in the number of points controlled by road patrols. My car has been stopped at places where I would have suggested siting road barriers, in particular on the Bressanore-Bolzano road and in the Aurina Valley. It should now be possible for the patrols to intercept any vehicle carrying parties of illegal frontier crossers.

20. (Paragraph 12). The favourite crossing place during August was over the passes into the Aurina with the Resia area taking second place. When the Aurina crossings become impassable at the end of this month, (and it is already reported that crossings have become fewer), there is reason to think that the Resia area will again take first place.

21. (Paragraph 14). I have seen and spoken to Jews wearing a kind of military uniform with AJDC cap badges driving lorries of U.S. Army pattern bearing the familiar U.S. Army marks and numbers. I am

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satisfied from personal observation that besides commercial lorries, pseudo Army cars are used to transport Jewish illegal frontier crossers during the night or early morning. I am told by the head Commissario that these lorries carry Travel Orders stamped by a U.S. Army officer in Milan; therefore the frontier police cannot stop them. He also tells me that he has never approached the AJDC and his only contact with their representatives was to allow food to be deposited near Casere, so that the P.S. might feed the Jews before returning them to the frontier.

22. The lack of communication is most acute between the frontier posts, the patrols and their immediate headquarters. Frequent visits to the outstations have lately been paid by the Head Commissario and the Commissario at San Candido. Duties in connection with the legal traffic at Resia and Brenner must make it more difficult for the Commissari at these places to leave their headquarters as frequently as would be desirable.

23. Before finally leaving Bolzano I met the Prefetto with the Head Commissario and went over with them the points dealt with in my report, endeavouring to leave them in no doubt about the conclusions I had reached.

VIII. Conclusions.

24. I am satisfied that the infiltration of Jews has been taking place regularly and continuously over the passes and by the means I have described in my interim reports. The parties appear to include Jews from DP camps and those who have recently entered Vienna via Hungary from Roumania.

25. Attempts to stop the flow by the present frontier control system have failed. This system would be capable of controlling clandestine crossing by individuals or by small parties with a degree of efficiency proportionate to the number, experience and integrity of the personnel of the frontier police and their supporting Customs guards and Carabinieri. This Jewish migration is, however, of a nature and on a scale which bears little comparison with normal peace time problems. The movement is organised and the organisers use resources superior to those employed by the officials with the cunning and persistency of an underground movement. Ordinary counter measures are, therefore totally inadequate.

26. The postwar situation in the occupied and lately occupied countries is fully exploited by the organisers of the movement towards Palestine. Use is made of the uniforms, road transport and documentation of the American occupation forces whose prestige remains although the forces have left. The cloak of the relief organisation known as the American Joint Distribution Committee covers those without whose help this secret migration would be impossible. It is especially the use of motor

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CLANDESTINE FRONTIER TRAFFIC.

At a meeting between Dr. MIGLIORE, of the Ministry of the Interior, and Mr. BENTON, of this Embassy, on 11th October, the question of the illegal traffic of Jewish refugees into Italy was discussed at some length and, in particular, the recommendations made by Mr. RUCK for the improvement of the controls on the Italian side of the frontier. (For convenience, a note on these recommendations is attached as Appendix 'A'). At that time it was hoped that, with the imminent closing by snow of the KRIMML pass, through which large numbers of Jewish refugees had crossed into Italy illegally during the summer, it would be possible for the Italian authorities to reduce the illegal traffic to very small proportions, since under winter conditions the only practical routes lie through, or very near to, the official frontier crossing posts at the RESIA and BRENNER passes. (The official crossing points east of the Brenner are controlled by British troops and there has been no evidence that there has been any illegal traffic from the British Zone into Italy.)

It has, however, become evident that parties of Jewish refugees are again crossing in increasing numbers through the French Zone of Austria into Italy. According to our information, which is supported by figures obtained through the French Authorities in Austria, this traffic, which was very small during the month of September, has now reached the alarming figure of about one thousand a month. There is indeed some evidence that this figure could even be increased if the Jewish Organisations wished, and the chief factor which appears to have restricted them is the difficulty of relieving the situation within Italy, where the I.R.O. camps have already reached their maximum content of Jewish refugees and the independent Jewish organisations have their means strained to the utmost. It is no doubt for this reason that the Jewish organisations are making every effort at present to embark refugees clandestinely from Italian shores. If they were able to evacuate large numbers of refugees from Italy by this means, they would no doubt attempt to increase even further the clandestine traffic into Italy from Austria.

On the other hand, there seems little doubt that, under winter conditions, the Italian authorities are in a position to reduce clandestine frontier crossings to a trickle. The following notes on the present posts at the crossing points may be of assistance.

II. RESIA PASS.

There appear to be three ways in which Jewish refugees can enter the country through the Resia valley:

- (a) By one method, the refugees are brought in lorries from LANDECK to NAUDERS, about 6 kms. north of the pass, where they arrive about midnight. Jewish guides then lead them by mountain paths, which follow the valley, skirting the main road where the frontier post lies, and bring them to a point south of MALLE where lorries or private cars meet them. The lorries are locally reported to be run by the A.J.D.C., the drivers frequently wearing military type uniforms. These lorries are to be seen waiting near MALLE almost every evening. They take the parties of refugees down to MERANO or, in some cases, travel straight through to MILAN.

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- (b) By the second method, lorries are reported to travel through both Austrian and Italian Controls from LANDECK to MERANO or points beyond. According to reliable information from the French Zone of Austria, the drivers of these lorries hold nominal rolls of the passengers which are accepted by both the Austrian and Italian police. A possible explanation of these alleged documents is that they carry group visas of destination for a country beyond Italy, e.g. a South American State, and transit visas for Italy granted by Italian Consuls in Central Europe. A separate note dealing with this possibility is attached as Appendix 'B'.
- (c) There are a number of refugees who, travelling alone, succeed in bribing Austrian guides to lead them past the frontier controls and bring them down into the VENOSTA valley. A British official who recently travelled by this route was told that these refugees were frequently seen on the road and it was a matter of common knowledge that they were Jews who had passed the frontier illegally.

III. BRENNER PASS.

It has been reliably reported that the method described in para. 2(b) above is being frequently used on the Brenner road. Lorries, which are sometimes of Austrian commercial type and sometimes former American military vehicles, pick up their loads at INNSBRUCK or LINZ and travel to a small inn about 3 kms. north of the pass where an Italian representative of the Jewish organisations meets them and arranges their passage through the controls. It is reported that the drivers hold collective documents for the passengers.

IV. COUNTER MEASURES.

It is urged that the Italian authorities should make a further effort to stop this clandestine traffic, which can not continue if effective controls at the frontier and on the roads are maintained. Mr. RUCK's recommendations will no doubt be of assistance in this respect, and Mr. PERRY, who has had considerable experience of immigration problems, will be glad to assist the Italian Authorities by providing information about new clandestine routes and methods which may be discovered by the Allied authorities in Austria. At the same time, it is suggested that the Italian Government might find it useful to investigate the activities of the A.J.D.C., which is undoubtedly responsible for the bulk of the traffic. Most of the movements of A.J.D.C. vehicles and personnel in the vicinity of the frontier are connected with the clandestine entry of refugees into Italy and if the Italian Government could restrict such movements, it would seriously interfere with illegal traffic. A note on the activities of the A.J.D.C. is attached as Appendix 'C'.

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 Reference **FO** 371 / 61854

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ITALIAN CONTROL.1. Administrative difficulties.

(a) Lack of transport. Only the Commissari at the Brenner and the Resia passes have transport. Jeeps and further vehicles of this type are needed. In addition, where parties of illegal entrants are collected and can be sent back over the main roads, suitable transport should be on hand as the guards have a difficult task in handling parties on foot, particularly as they include women, children and babies.

(b) There are insufficient means of quick communication between the frontier posts and the central control, and the existing telephonic system is inadequate. Adequate telephone services are urgently needed.

(c) Great difficulty is experienced in the billeting of personnel. Requisitioning is not possible, and the loan of barrack accommodation by the military authorities should, therefore, be considered.

2. Where the frontier forces are inadequate, mobile detachments of carabinieri might be drafted temporarily into the forward areas, or, if these should not be available, local troops might be detailed to assist the Commissario. In cases of special emergency, such as a mass crossing, the Commissario should be in a position to call upon the carabinieri or military forces for assistance.
3. Generally speaking, the personnel of the Pubblica Sicurezza have no great experience of frontier control, and thus need much closer supervision than experienced men. The commanding officers should, therefore, be encouraged to carry this out through implementation of recommendations under paragraph 1, and by other means.
4. The use of vehicles for the transport of illegal immigrants should be denied by the rigorous sequestration of vehicles caught whilst engaged in this traffic and legal action should be taken against the drivers and persons in charge of such vehicles. Italian licences for these vehicles should be withdrawn. Persons employed by the relief organisations and their vehicles should not enjoy immunity from this procedure. All vehicles of these organisations should be clearly and distinctly marked and documented so as to make it quite clear that they are civilian transports, and not military or para-military.
5. As there are three services controlling the frontier (Pubblica Sicurezza, Guardia di Finanza and Carabinieri), of which one only is under the command of the Commissario, there must be some loss of efficiency. These three services should co-operate to the fullest extent and should act as virtually one force for the purpose of preventing illegal crossings.

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SOUTH AMERICAN VISAS.

We have again heard that certain organisations in Central Europe have found a means of providing what appear to be entry visas for certain South American countries without the approval of the Governments of the countries concerned. The Jewish organisations are believed to procure these visas for stateless refugees and then apply to Italian representatives in Austria for Italian transit visas.

Naturally, when these refugees arrive in Italy, they are unable to proceed to South America and, in fact, merely swell the number of stateless persons attempting to reach Palestine by illegal means. The British authorities in Austria are investigating this matter and will certainly consult with the Italian Representation in Vienna.

In the meantime, it occurs to us that this story may have a connection with a report which we have received from the French Zone of Austria that, during the last month, many parties of Jewish refugees have passed through the Italian Controls at the Brenner and Resia passes. It is believed that these parties hold nominal rolls which are evidently furnished with Italian entry or transit visas, since they are accepted by the Italian Controls without question.

I suggest, if it is possible, that the Italian Authorities are allowing some of these parties to enter Italy in the belief that they are able to proceed to their country of destination, such as Uruguay, and that, in fact, once they have arrived in Italy, they will not attempt to proceed to their professed destination and will prove a source of embarrassment to the Italian Government.

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APPENDIX "C".

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE.

This civilian organisation continues to abuse its status, and to assist the illegal immigration of Jews into Italy. It is therefore suggested that -

- (a) its position in Italy, and of its personnel and transport should be clearly defined, and
- (b) in view of the close connection between it and the illegal immigration movement, it might be desirable to restrict the organisation's activities in the areas near the northern frontier and near the coast.

In connection with (b), the following samples of the co-operation referred to are offered.

- (i) A hostel was established at the beginning of the summer at Fischer's Farm, Casere, for the purpose of feeding and resting parties of Jews who had crossed the Tauri. The attention of the Ministry of the Interior was drawn to this hostel in August, and the subsequent investigation proved conclusively that it was organised by the A.J.D.C. Its presence in the Tauri contributed very materially to the facility with which such large numbers of Jews were able to enter Italy illegally during the summer.

It is understood that a request has been made by A.J.D.C. to the Italian Government to allow a camp to be set up at Brunico, apparently to serve illegal immigrants crossing by the Brenner Pass. Could it be stated if permission will be given for this?

- (ii) Certain cars stationed at the Sanatorium, Via Winkel, Merano, are marked as A.J.D.C. It is known that this place is a staging centre for illegal Jewish immigrants.
- (iii) On the occasion of the illegal embarkation from Cozze, near Bari on 13.5.47, the British Vice-Consul, Bari, was advised by the Questore that an A.J.D.C. vehicle had been stopped in Bari by a mobile squad of the Italian police. The occupants were all Jews, who stated that they were proceeding to Cozze for Palestine.
- (iv) Certain letters censored by the British authorities at Vienna indicate A.J.D.C.'s complicity in the illegal movement of Jews. The following is a sample:-

Letter from Rome to Vienna.

" ..... we travelled by car to Steger, stopped a day, then to Linz, Salzburg and Saalfelden. Then on foot over the Alps to the first Italian village, from where we went to Milan in transport provided by the Joint."

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**FO** 371 / 61854

139

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E 11724 40

1947

PALESTINE

REC

Registry Number } E 11724/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM } Lord Poverchapel

No. } Washington

Dated } 6923

Received in Registry } 10.12.47

11 -

Beland, F.B. Johnson

Refer F.O.T. 12522 (E 11277/857/31) state alert inform that considerable pressure is being put on Mr. Bennett's office for release of Beland F.B. Johnson. Pressure is primarily from Washington, and not London. Urge for decision re further detention of ship.

Last Paper.

11718

References.

(Minutes.)

This telegram has been held up for 24 hours in order to await a reply from Palestine to the c.o. telegram in E 11687.

now please see separate minute.

*[Signature]* 12/12

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8. P.P. (on E 11743) Dec 15

Ref. Wilson 12905  
Rtd. Hague 1131  
Panama 134  
C.G. New York 287  
Dec 12.

8. P.P. Dec 15  
(on E 11743)

5) Prio Frost, C.O. (on 243) Dec 15

(Action completed.)

(Indexed) Dec 15

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]* 12/12/47

Next Paper.

E 11743

30471 F.O.P

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Reference FO 371/61854



Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel  
No. 6923

D. 7.52 p.m. 10th December, 1947.

10th December, 1947.

R. 1.55 a.m. 11th December, 1947.

Repeated to : The Hague  
Panama  
New York (Consul General) - Saving

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

11 DEC

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 6923 10th  
December: repeated to The Hague and Panama and Saving to  
Consul-General New York,

Your telegram No. 12522: Jewish illegal immigration.

State Department inform us that considerable pressure is  
being put on Mr. Levett's office for release of  
Col. F.C. Johnson. Pressure is presumably from Dereckter,  
who was a classmate of Levett's at Yale, and is not, I under-  
stand, from Zionists.

2. The State Department, who are at present holding ship  
only on technical point contained in last sentence of the  
paragraph of the invitation for bids quoted on the first  
page of Dereckter's affidavit, are accordingly most anxious  
that decision should be taken as soon as possible and that,  
if it is adverse, sufficient reasons should be given to  
enable them to defend further delay to ship. Failing that,  
they will find it very difficult to declare that undertaking  
given in his affidavit is insufficient. One further point  
to be borne in mind should this enterprise be innocent, is  
that Dereckter states that if ship is still held at the end  
of this week he will have to take steam down and remove crew,  
thereby incurring further financial loss. He has also  
stated that refitting in Holland will take two months. This  
may perhaps have some bearing on question of release.

3. It is clear that State Department do not feel able to  
delay matters much longer except on very good grounds. I  
should therefore be most grateful if you would inform me of  
your decision before the end of this week.

Foreign Office please pass important to The Hague  
as my telegram No. 51.

[Repeated to The Hague.]

LM



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Reference  
FO 371/61854

Registry  
No. E 11724/81/31

Top Secret  
Secret  
Confidential  
Restricted  
Open

JEC

# CYPHER<sup>42</sup>

OUT FILE 12 December, 1947

Despatched 7 55 P M.

~~MOST IMMEDIATE~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Draft.

WASHINGTON

Telegram.

No. 12905

(Date) Dec 12

Repeat to:—

No 1131  
THE HAGUE  
PANAMA No 134  
CONSULATE GENERAL,  
NEW YORK No 284  
JERUSALEM

*P. 12/14*  
*N.A. Dept first*

RECEIVED IN O.R.  
Em Clair DEC 1947  
Code.  
Cypher.

Distribution:—

Departmental No.1.

*Huble*  
*(S. ECABER)*

*M. J. Denis*  
*Dec. 12*

Copies to:—

I. I. P.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

148 Wt. 26469/197 50m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Addressed to Washington telegram No. 12905 of  
... 12. December repeated for information to The  
Hague, Panama, Consulate-General, New York and  
Jerusalem.

Your telegram No. 6923 [of 10th December:]

Jewish Illegal Immigrants

Our reasons for suspecting "Colonel  
Frederick C. Johnson" can be summarised as  
follows:

(a) She is owned by Director, who sold  
the "President Warfield" to Weston Trading Co.,  
who sent her to Palestine.

(b) Her overhaul was arranged by Captain  
Ash, former President of the Weston Trading  
Co.

(c) Her Norfolk agents the Alcoa Steamship  
Co. were those of the "President Warfield".

(d) Morris Ginsberg, who is associated  
with her, supplied oil to the "President Warfield"

(e) Director admitted in his affidavit  
that ship was unseaworthy and unserviceable and  
her usefulness limited to coastal trade. Yet  
Kahn, a Dutch cinema proprietor, without shipping  
experience is willing to invest large sums in  
company intending to operate her through the Bay of  
Biscay.

(f) Hans Kahn is a self-confessed "ardent  
Zionist".

(g) Government of Palestine have inter-  
cepted telegram from Kahn offering a ship  
(ostensibly/

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Reference  
FO 371 61854



42A

(ostensibly for legal immigration) to Jewish Agency in Jerusalem.

2. This evidence is far from conclusive, but stronger evidence can very rarely be expected against such ships until they actually begin fitting bunks and taking on supplies in a European port. \* In view of this ship's large capacity and of the present critical situation in Palestine, I consider that the release of this ship would entail an unacceptable risk. The "Pan Crescent" and the "Pan York" have so far been detained at ~~X~~<sup>s</sup> Konstanza by refusal of the Roumanian Government to supply fuel, but we cannot count on their continued co-operation, and situation described in my telegram No. 10743 still exists. You should, therefore, urge the State Department to continue to detain this ship until such time as <sup>K</sup> Director complies with the conditions contained in my telegram No. 12200 or equivalent thereof.

3. You may consider it useful to point out that extent to which we can influence Arabs towards moderation will be considerably affected by our success in preventing Jewish illegal immigration.

LP/  
2/12

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference  
**FO** 371 / 61854

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43

E 11724/81/51  
Confidential  
Cypher/OTP

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No. 12905

December 12th, 1947.

D. 7.55 p.m. December 12th, 1947.

Repeated to The Hague No. 1131, Panama No. 134, Consulate  
General New York No. 287, Jerusalem.

MOST IMMEDIATE  
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Washington telegram No. 12905 of  
December 12th, repeated for information to The Hague,  
Panama, Consulate-General New York and Jerusalem.

Your telegram No. 6923 [of December 10th]: Jewish  
Illegal Immigration.

Our reasons for suspecting "Colonel Frederick C.  
Johnson" can be summarised as follows:

(a) She is owned by Derektor, who sold the  
"President Warfield" to Weston Trading Company, who sent  
her to Palestine.

(b) Her overhaul was arranged by Captain Ash,  
former President of the Weston Trading Company.

(c) Her Norfolk agents the Alcoa Steamship Company  
were those of the "President Warfield".

(d) Morris Ginsberg, who is associated with her,  
supplied oil to the "President Warfield".

(e) Derektor admitted in his affidavit that ship  
was unseaworthy and unserviceable and her usefulness limited  
to coastal trade. Yet Kahn, a Dutch cinema proprietor,  
without shipping experience is willing to invest large sums  
in company intending to operate her through the Bay of Biscay.

(f) Hans Kahn is a self-confessed "ardent Zionist".

(g) Government of Palestine have intercepted  
telegram from Kahn offering a ship (ostensibly for legal  
immigration) to Jewish Agency in Jerusalem.

2. This evidence is far from conclusive, but stronger  
evidence can very rarely be expected against such ships until  
they actually begin fitting bunks and taking on supplies in  
a European port. In view of this ship's large capacity  
and of the present critical situation in Palestine, I  
consider that the release of this ship would entail an  
unacceptable risk. The "Pan Crescent" and the "Pan York"  
have so far been detained at Constanza by refusal of the  
Roumanian Government to supply fuel, but we cannot count on  
their continued co-operation, and situation described in my  
telegram No. 10743 still exists. You should, therefore,  
urge the State Department to continue to detain this ship

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Reference  
**FO** 371 / 61854

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until such time as Dereckter complies with the conditions contained in my telegram No. 12200 or equivalent thereof.

5. You may consider it useful to point out that extent to which we can influence Arabs towards moderation will be considerably affected by our success in preventing Jewish illegal immigration.

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Piécé ..... *61854* .....

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References

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**371**

**61854**

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45

11771

1947.

PALESTINE

12 DEC

Registry Number

E 11771/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Gen. V. Mallett

No.

Rome

Dated

2284

Received in Registry

10.12.10

12 -

GIOVANNI MARIA

Refer Rome tel 2257 (E 11771/84/31) My foreign office has replied that my informant Maria will be asked to take legal action against "GIOVANNI MARIA" for transporting unauthorised passengers and for leaving port La Maddalena in Sardinia without clearance.

Last Paper.

11743

(Minutes.)

References.

See within of for E.C. bud. 151727 Dec 15<sup>th</sup>

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, ~~11743~~  
I.P.P. (on E 11743)  
Dec 15

(Action completed.)

P 11/12

(Index.)

11743

Next Paper.

E 11791

30471 F.O.P

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Reference FO 371/61854

Cypher/OTP

*Green*  
46  
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

12 DEC  
FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir V. Mallet.  
No. 2284.

D. 2.0. p.m. 10th December  
1947.

10th December 1947.

R. 4.15. p.m. 10th December  
1947.

Repeated to Paris.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 2284 of  
December 10th repeated to Paris.

CONFIDENTIAL

1100/10/11  
My telegram No. 2257; Jewish Illegal Immigration.

My paragraph 2.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs have replied that  
the Ministry of Mercantile Marine will be asked to take  
legal action against "Giovanni Maria" for transporting  
unauthorised passengers and for having left La Maddalena  
in Sardinia without clearance.

Foreign Office please repeat to Paris as my  
telegram No. 235.

[Repeated to Paris.]

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Reference

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371 / 61854

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~~SECRET~~ SECRET

IN

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low.  
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WARNING : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased\* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(\*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :  
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

11976 84 31.

151727/December

From C. in C. Med.

Date 15.12.47

Recd. 1759

~~SECRET~~

To Admiralty D.N.I.  
Info : N.O.I.C. Port Said Compal N.A. Paris N.A. Rome

IMMEDIATE

R.O. Ajaccio reports unknown ship rendezvoused with GIOVANNI MARIA noon 14 at Girolata and both sailed at 1900.

2. Admiralty please pass to N.A. Paris.

151727

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L. (3)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.
- U.S.S.
- C. (8)
- D.C. (2)
- M. (8)
- D.N.I. (5)
- D. of P. (2)
- E. of P. (Q)
- C.N.I. (2)

Advance Copy sent D.C. R.C.

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Piece ..... 61854 .....

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**FO**

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1947

PALESTINE

15 DEC

Registry Number

E 11834/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

M. Holman

No.

Berchavit

Dated

1502

Received in Registry

12.11.47

15 -

Pan Amco and Pan York  
Re: Berchavit # 1455 (E 11488/84/31) Good  
news indicate that departure of these ships  
with 800 of immigrants is again delayed, if not  
definitely cancelled.  
News suggested reasons for this

Last Paper.

11791

(Minutes.)

References.

This is an interesting and  
encouraging telegram. It looks as if we  
may be saved these two ships  
until after we have given us  
control of immigration.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S. J. P. on E 11791  
later 17.18

NON 19/12  
Southern Dept.  
Northern Dept. 24/12

Gable  
(RECALLABLE)  
16/12

All to the good

J. S. Deint  
Dec. 16  
1947

(Action completed.)

J. C. H. 23/12

(Index.)

M. S. 17/12/47

Next Paper.

11835

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Reference FO 371/61854

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

15 DEC  
FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Holman.  
No. 1502.

D. 5.38.p.m. December 12th, 1947.

December 12th, 1947.

R. 6.54.p.m. December 12th, 1947.

Repeated to Washington.

Angora.

Sofia.

B.M.E.O. Cairo.

Malta (for Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean).

IMPORTANT.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1502 of December 12th, repeated to Washington, Angora, Sofia, B.M.E.O. Cairo and Malta for Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

Confidential.

My telegram No. 1455.

S.S. Pan Crescent and Pan York.

Reports from good and independent sources indicate that departures of these steamers with illegal immigrants are again delayed, if not definitely [grp.undec. ? cancelled].

2. It appears that Anna Pauker, the new Minister for Foreign Affairs has opposed these departures since she took office and has seriously weakened the positions of Bodnares Bunaciu, high Communist Police Officials, who hitherto had actually encouraged this traffic.

3. Another report says that the Jewish agency in Palestine has cancelled sailings until the congested camps at Cyprus have been cleared, maybe to avoid immigrants intended for these ships being sent to places where they would be far removed from Palestine during the coming critical months.

4. I am watching the situation carefully and will keep you informed of any developments confirming or denying these reports.

Foreign Office please repeat to Washington, Angora, B.M.E.O. Cairo and Malta (for Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean) as my telegrams Nos. 170, 49, 26 and 15 respectively.

[Repeated to Washington, Angora, and B.M.E.O. Cairo.]

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for transmission to Malta.]

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Reference

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61854

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51

1947

PALESTINE

11835

15 DEC

Registry Number

E11835/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

M. Halman

No.

Bucharest

Dated

1507

Received in Registry

12 Dec

15 ~

*Illegal Immigration Roumania*  
*Refer Bucharest dispatch 14/5/47 (E10584/48/11)*  
*This report suggests that subject of discussion was*  
*ways and means of increasing and expediting the*  
*export of Jews from Roumania to neutral countries*  
*via Iran. No evidence is available as to what*  
*arrangements have been made for this purpose and how*  
*both ships are still at Bucharest, and there are*  
*as yet no signs of passengers assembling at or*  
*moving towards that port.*

Last Paper.

11834 (11791)

(Minutes.)

Please see E11468

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 J.G.P. as on 11791  
Dec. 17 1948

(Action completed.)

7/2/48

(Index.)

12/2/48

Next Paper.

(11994)

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30471 F.O.P

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FO 371 / 61854

13/12



Cypher/CTP

15 DEC

ADMIRALTY

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Holman

No. 1507

12th December, 1947.

D. 10.37 a.m. 13th December, 1947.

R. 2.07 p.m. 13th December, 1947.

IMPORTANT

Foreign Office please pass the following to the Admiralty for D.N.I. from Naval Attaché Bucharest.

[Begins].

Top Secret.

Your telegram No. 101750.

Presume reports you refer to originated from Bucharest Chancery letter 74/55/47 of November 4th to Southern Department Foreign Office. This report suggests that subject of discussions was ways and means of increasing and expediting the exodus of Jews from Roumania to countries outside the Iron Curtain.

2. No evidence is available here as to what if anything was decided about the use to be made of Pan York and Pan Crescent. They are a ready to hand means of transport, but change of Russian attitude referred to in paragraph 2 of Bucharest telegram No. 1382 of November 20th may be overriding factor. On the other hand a party of Jews attempting to cross into Hungary at the end of November was stopped and sent back by Roumanian frontier guard, and this may indicate a further change in Communist attitude.

3. With reference to Bucharest telegram No. 1455 of December 4th both ships are still at Constantza, and there are as yet no signs of passengers assembling at or moving towards that port. Bucharest telegram No. 1502 to Foreign Office refers.

4. Question of military training in Jewish camps in Roumania is being investigated. What intentions are concerning embarkation of trained military personnel are not known, but some indications may be obtainable if and when passengers are observed assembling.

[Copy sent to D.N.I.]

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11839

1947

PALESTINE

DEC

Registry Number

E11839/84/31

FROM

70 Minutes

No.

111 Cable

Dated

Received in Registry

12 Dec 15

Colonel F. B. Johnson

Director news agreed with both M.I.5 and G.O. for reporting 'Frederick B. Johnson' of being detained for illegal immigrant trafficker.

Last Paper

11837

(Minutes.)

Telegram sent on E11724

Now see E11857

16/12

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

J. L. 22/12

(Index)

[Handwritten initials]

Next Paper

11843

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COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference

FO 371 / 61854

Enter E 54  
E

JEWISH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The S.S. "Colonel Frederick C. Johnson", suspected by us of being destined for this traffic, has been detained at Norfolk, Virginia and her owner's application to transfer the ship to the Panamanian flag refused by the State Department. Her owner Samuel Derektor is pressing the State Department to release the ship and the State Department are reluctant to delay this much longer except on very good grounds. H.M. Ambassador in Washington has asked for a decision by to-morrow (Saturday 13th December).

(E 11724)

I consider, and the C.O. and M.I.5. concur that, although our evidence against this ship is not conclusive, it is strong enough, bearing in mind her estimated capacity for 6,700 Jewish illegal immigrants, to make her release at the present critical period an unacceptable risk. I suggest that H.M. Ambassador should be instructed to press vigorously for her continued detention and I submit draft telegram to that effect.

Our grounds for suspecting this ship are as follows:-

- (a) Her owner, Samuel Derektor, sold the "President Warfield" to the Weston Trading Company, who sent her to Palestine. (Derektor claims he had no knowledge of the Company's intentions when he sold the ship).
- (b) Her overhaul at Norfolk was arranged by Captain Ash, former President of the Weston Trading Company (Derektor claims this is a coincidence).
- (c) Her Norfolk agents, the Alcoa Steamship Company, are the same as those of the "President Warfield".
- (d) Morris Ginsberg, who supplied oil to the "President Warfield" is connected with her.
- (e) Derektor has himself admitted that the "Colonel Frederick C. Johnson" was too unseaworthy and too unserviceable to be registered under the U.S. flag, and that her usefulness was limited to coastal trade. These are, of course, characteristic features of all ships employed in the traffic. His ostensible intention, nevertheless, is to send her to Rotterdam for alterations to her passenger accommodation and then to employ her to carry passengers and cargo between Rotterdam and the Mediterranean (i.e. through the Bay of Biscay).
- (f) Derektor's account of his dealings in connexion with this ship has been vague, and frequently contradicted by his associates or by our own information.

For these reasons, we told the State Department that we could only agree to the ship's release if:

- 1) The ship were chartered to a reputable firm having full control of operation; or
- 2) Derektor's associates were sufficiently reputable and had enough financial control to prevent the use of the ship in illegal traffic or her sale to a third party.

Neither of these conditions have been fulfilled. Derektor's associates are two naturalised Dutch Jews of German origin: Isidore Kahn, a cinema proprietor, and his son Hans. We

have/

11724  
13 DEC

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Reference  
**FO**  
371 / 61854

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54A

have nothing against the father except his rather slippery and disingenuous behaviour during negotiations about the ship. His son, Hans, however, has himself confessed to being an ardent Zionist and is believed to be negotiating with the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem for the employment by them of the "Colonel Frederick C. Johnson", ostensibly for the purpose of carrying legal Jewish immigrants. It is, in any case, peculiar that the two Kahns should be willing to risk a large sum in acquiring a half share in the ship which they know to be unsuitable for normal operations.

This evidence is far from conclusive but we have rarely had stronger evidence against any ship until she actually began fitting bunks and taking on supplies in a European port. We have ourselves taken action and persuaded other Governments to take action on weaker evidence - a case in point is that of the "Lucia", which has been detained in a U.K. port for over six months though she can count a K.C. and an M.P. among her owners.

RECEIVED IN C.B.  
13 DEC 1947  
SENT TO DEPT.  
15 DEC 1947

(J. E. CABLE)  
12th December 1947.

The S. J. personally raised this matter in the first instance with the U.S.G. I think he would wish to maintain our position, failing clear assurances from the owners.

J. J. Denis  
Dec. 12  
(BEITH)

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Reference  
FO 371 / 61854

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'1947

E

E 11843

15 DEC

PALESTINE

Registry Number E/11843/84/31  
 FROM Copenhagen  
 No. Copenhagen  
 Dated 170/17/47  
 Received in Registry 8 Dec 15 ~

Illegal Immigration American and Responses  
 Refer to letter (E9313/84/11) Enclosed bank report on the firm, and also confirmed that nothing is known against responses, the is acting in the matter for an Italian firm and payment for ship will be made in dollars.  
 Unable to determine name of Italian firm.

Last Paper

11839

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8. Higham. BO.  
 1. Scherr. M.I.S.  
 Ewersted Babcock  
 Rennie. Transport.  
 ref. E9313  
 Valre 23

(Action completed)

G.L.M. 23/12

(Index)

[Handwritten initials]

Next Paper

11875

(Minutes.)

Copies to: C.C. (Mr. Higham)  
 M.I.S. (Mr. Scherr)  
 Cabinet Office (Edw. Ewersted)  
 H. of Tr. (Mr. Rennie)

ref. E9313

[Signature] 16/12

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 Reference

FO 371/6185A

G. 170/77/47.

RESTRICTED.

Dear Department,

Your letter E 9313/84/31 of 15th October about  
Suenson and Jespersen, Shipbrokers of Copenhagen.

We attach a copy of the Bank report on this  
firm. We have confirmed from other sources that  
nothing is known against Jespersen. However, we find  
that he is acting in this matter for an Italian firm,  
and that payment for the ship will be made in dollars.  
We have been unable to discover the name of the Italian  
firm. If we get any further information we will pass  
it on to you.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

The Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
LONDON, S.W. 1.

BRITISH EMBASSY,

COPENHAGEN.

8TH December 1947.

E 11843

15 DEC

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Reference  
FO 371 / 61854



COPY

Suenson & Jespersen, Toldbodgade 2, Copenhagen.

Bank report:

Line of business: Shipowners, charterers, shipbrokers, purchase and sale of ship, and insurance.

Minor fire, the sole owner of which, Mr. Otto Jespersen, is a respectable and reliable man, who has good connections with the leading shipowners here.

The firm maintains a current account with us conveying the impression that it has command of the necessary working capital, but we have no intimate knowledge of the financial position. As far as we know, the firm has always fulfilled contracted engagements promptly.

27th October, 1947.

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Reference FO 371 / 61854

348

1947

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E 11875

58

PALESTINE

15 DEC

Registry Number

E11875/84/71

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

14 Huff booper

Paris

273 Soring

11 Dec

15 -

MARIE ANNICK

Small auxiliary schooner named "Marie Annick" reported to have refitted in Bastia for illegal immigration traffic. Aft Bastia Nov 20 bound for Marseilles.

Last Paper.

11843

(Minutes.)

7/11/12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, I.I.P. (E11743) Dec 15

(Action completed.)

J.M. 16/12

(Index.)

12/18/48

Next Paper.

E 11944

30471 F.O.P

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References FO 371/61854

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No: 1

59

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

11075

Mr. Duff Cooper  
No: 273 Saving

15 DEC

11th December 1947

R.13th December 1947 by  
Confidential Bag

Addressed to H.M.C.G. Marseilles No: 130 repeated  
to Foreign Office No: 273 Saving.

Confidential.

Jewish Illegal Immigration.

Small auxiliary schooner named "Marie Annick"  
reported to have refitted in Bastia for this traffic.  
Left Bastia November 20th bound for Marseilles.

X:X:X:

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Reference  
FO 371 / 6185A

349

E

11044

60

1947

16 DEC

Registry Number

E11944/84/31

FROM

Chancery

No.

Vienna

Dated

Received in Registry

16 Dec.

Illegal Immigration  
Re: Vienna letter 6/19/47 (E11627/84/31)  
minutes of meeting held 20 Nov to discuss matters connected with documentation covering exit of meeting held 17 Nov.

Last Paper.

4875

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

4, Scherr. M.I.S.  
date 23  
(under E11627/84/31)

(Action completed.)

L.P. 11/6/47

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

11963

(Minutes.)

Copy to Mr. Scherr M.I.S.  
and re-submit

[Signature] 16/12

This is of some interest in connection with Vienna's suggestion (on c papers) that the Austrian authorities should be permitted to issue visas.

Please see also E11627

Western Dept. [Signature]  
German Pol. Dept. [Signature]  
Refugee Dept. [Signature]  
N.A. Dept. [Signature]

[Signature] 24/12

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Reference  
FO 371/61854

61

11944  
16 DEC

With the compliments of  
Chancery, British Legation,  
Vienna.

Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

11627/84/31

Previous reference - Our 61/97/47  
of 3/12/47.

*Copied Rome  
Paris  
Washington*

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Reference  
**FO** 371 / 61854



Minutes of a Meeting held in SCHÖNBRUNN Palace  
1430 hours 20 Nov 47 to discuss matters connected  
with documentation arising out of the meeting  
held in SCHÖNBRUNN Palace 1445 hours 17 Nov 47.

There were present:

<u>French Element</u>	<u>British Element</u>
M. HAUTPETIT-FOURICHON	Lt/Col J.W.G. DUNCAN
Capt. BAUDET	Mrs. J.S.L. JAMIESON
M. CADEAU	Maj. J.J. SPRAGG
	Maj. A.A. WATERHOUSE.

1. No. U.S. Representative arrived, but it was decided that the French and British Elements should discuss on a bit-partite basis, the British Element then to discuss the same points with the U.S. Element.

2. The British Element asked for frank exchange of views on:
- a) The use of forged documents
  - b) the misuse of valid documents

At the request of the British Element it was agreed to exchange information on these points and to take all possible steps against the culprits both in the respective zones and in Vienna.

The French Element pointed out that the large variety of travel documents valid in Austria complicated matters and simplified the job of forgers.

The British Element stated that the Frontier Control Working Party offered the best opportunity to check false documents and to prevent the issue of valid documents based on false ones. This was agreed by the French Element. The British Element then stated that they were prepared to take a leading part in this check, and that in the event of names being submitted for immigration to a given country they would insist on seeing the document issued by the government of that country authorising entry (or a photostat copy of such a document) and checking its validity. The French Element took note of this statement and added that the French authorities do NOT issue a transit visa for France until they are satisfied that the persons wishing to transit France, are in possession of a document or documents authorising entry into the country of ultimate destination.

Both Elements agreed that the minimum of delay should be caused to persons whose documents were clearly in order.

3. Clearance for travel to Italy

The British Element raised the question of the present unilateral clearance by the U.S. Element for travel to Italy. With the ratification of the Italian Treaty this should become a quadripartite matter. The French Element stated they would be pleased to see clearance for Italy done in the normal way, i.e. quadripartitely. The British Element will raise the question with the U.S. Element.

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4. Exit Permits

The French Element, on a question from the British Element, stated that they were satisfied with the precautions they take against Jews obtaining exit permits from Austria.

The AFP is issued in principle only to French Nationals. A French passport is necessary for the issue of an AFP to civilians.

5. A system of frontier permits is in existence in the French Zone for Italy and Switzerland. Issue of such permits is made in Austria by the French authorities, in conjunction with either the Italian or Swiss authorities.

6. Returning to the question of Jews transiting France, the French Element stated that discussions took place between the French and British governments earlier in 1947 concerning a certain number (first agreed as 8000 and then increased to 19000) who would be temporary transients in France. It would be pertinent to obtain the exact details of this agreement. The French stated they had asked the French Consul in Vienna for details of this agreement.

7. It was agreed that the passing of information on matters connected with false documentation should be between Capt. BAUDET (French Element) and Maj. WATERHOUSE (British Element)

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Reference **FO** 371 / 61854

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11994

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1947

PALESTINE

18 DEC

Registry Number

E 11994/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

1526  
(Bucharest)

Dated

17 Dec

Received in Registry

18 Dec

General Illegal Immigrants  
Refers to W. M. L. L. 6943 (E 11791/84/31)  
gives details of help given  
by Soviet authorities to Jewish  
illegal immigrants passing through  
Roumania

Last Paper.

(11835)  
E 11966

(Minutes.)

Further letter to Mr. Schen.  
Re-submit a/c

References.

*[Signature]*  
18/12

(Print.)

Please see separate minute

*[Signature]*  
22/12

(How disposed of.)

8 I. I. P.  
Dec.

Mr. Schen  
(M.I.S.)

Mr. Cable's Camps.  
Dec. 19

C. O. (Mr. Higham)  
Col. Officer (Mr. Evershed)  
Dec. 19

Mr. W. Tun. 13304  
24 Dec.

(Action completed.)

*[Signature]*  
18/12

(Index.)

*[Signature]*  
18/12

Next Paper.

(12118)  
E 12054

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Reference  
FO 371/6185A

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Copy of letter of Dec. 19  
sent to Mr. Schen with  
Mr. Cable's Comps.  
✓ Dec. 29

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Reference  
**FO** 371 / 61854





Minutes.

but I attach a spare.

*[Signature]*  
W.F. CABER  
6/1

Have you, you may be  
interested in this paper and  
telegram attached. We wd. be glad to see if reply to yr. Ltr. - 40 13.

Acc. Kellas 9/1

MR KELLAS St. JAC.

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*  
9/2/1

65A

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Reference

FO

371

61854

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Registry  
No.

~~TOP SECRET.~~  
Secret.  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~RESTRICTED.~~  
~~SECRET~~

A.R.K.

F.O.,

January, 1948.

Despatched

M.

66

Draft.

SECRET

BUCHAREST

SOFIA

Telegram.

No. ....

(Date) .....

Repeat to :-

~~In-Clair.~~

~~Code~~

Cypher.

Distribution :-

Copies to :-

Your telegram No. 1526 (Bucharest)

Your telegram No. ? (Sofia)

It is proposed to communicate this information to the Jewish Agency in Palestine pointing out the dangers to the Jewish State of Communist-organised immigration.

2. I should be grateful for confirmation that such information is not already available to the Agency and for any further details, particularly as to the source of this report.

*Accepted*

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

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Reference

FO 371/6185A

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Eastern Dept.

The S & B would like the substance of the attached telegram communicated personally to Mr Marshall and General Hillman.

RSC McAlpine  
20/12.

Mr Beith.

There was a similar minute from Sir O. Sargent.

JAB

20.12

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Reference FO 371/61854

Cypher/OTP

*This should go to Marshall and Hillman. Special delivery*

*This should go specially to Marshall and Hillman. Self 68*

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Holman, D. 10.50 a.m. 17th December, 1947  
No. 1526  
17th December, 1947. R. 11.50 a.m. 17th December, 1947

Repeated to Washington.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1526 of December 17th repeated to Washington.

CONFIDENTIAL

Washington telegram No. 6943.

*MD*

Jewish illegal immigration.

Following is substance of information handed to member of United States Legation here.

There has been a steady stream of Jews into Roumania from the U.S.S.R. during the past two years and many of these have been included in shipments of illegal immigrants to Palestine. Our local sources and information collected in Palestine both confirm that they arrive from the U.S.S.R. without identity papers and are provided with papers by various Roumanian Jewish organisations.

2. The same sources show that training camps for illegal immigrants in Roumania where para-military training was done were permitted by Soviet Section of Allied Control Commission.

3. The [gps.undec.] Assembly and embarkation of Jewish illegal immigrants from Roumania at ports on the Black Sea which are vital points on the Soviet line of communication, and readiness with which clearances were granted to thousands of these immigrants by N.K.V.D. when exit clearances for normal passengers was practically impossible to obtain, were more than significant indications of Soviet participation, in this traffic.

4. Precedence given to Jews arriving from the U.S.S.R. in illegal immigrant traffic from Roumania has been remarkable.

5. A considerable proportion of illegal immigrants who arrived in Palestinian waters on steamers Paducah and Northlands belonged to extreme - left wing Jewish [gp.undec. ? organisation]s in Roumania and there were among them some who had recently arrived from Russia. It is impossible to pass the frontier from the U.S.S.R. into Roumania without U.S.S.R. approval.

6./....

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Reference

**FO** 371 / 61854

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68A

6. Major Levy, a serving member of the Allied Control Commission, Soviet section, was publicly engaged in Jewish extremist activities in Roumania. He was in touch constantly with Klarman, and Averbuch, delegates in Roumania of extremist revisionists and Palestine underground movement respectively, and has been seen, on more than one occasion with them at N.K.V.D. H.Q.

7. Klarman Averbuch Pandelis and others connected with the organisation of this traffic have been given visas in and out of Roumania immediately by the Soviet authorities when even diplomatic visas were granted to other applicants only after interminable delays.

8. Russian military transport has been, and is said to be still being used for transport of Jewish illegal immigrants across Roumania both coastwards and westwards.

Foreign Office please repeat to Washington as my telegram No.173.

[Repeated to Washington]

QQQ

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Reference

**FO** 371 / 61854



*Gastin Jeff*

AMENDED DISTRIBUTION (18. 12. 47).

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed.]

Cypher/OTF

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Holman, D. 10.50 a.m. 17th December, 1947.  
No. 1526

17th December, 1947. R. 11.50 a.m. 17th December, 1947.

Repeated to Washington.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1526 of December 17th repeated to Washington.

CONFIDENTIAL

Washington telegram No. 6943.

Jewish illegal immigration.

*This should be communicated to State Dept.*

Following is substance of information handed to member of United States Legation here.

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Reference **FO** 371 / 61854

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- 2 -

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Foreign Office please repeat to Washington as my telegram No.173.

[Repeated to Washington]

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Reference  
**FO**  
371 / 61854

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed]

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Holman, D. 10.50 a.m. 17th December, 1947.  
No. 1526

17th December, 1947. R. 11.50 a.m. 17th December, 1947.

Repeated to Washington.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1526 of December 17th repeated to Washington.

*N.V. 11/12*

CONFIDENTIAL

Washington telegram No. 6943.

Jewish illegal immigration.

Following is substance of information handed to member of United States Legation here.

*Southern Dept.*  
*Eastern Dept.*  
*Could I see minutes please? Do you know anything of source? RMAH, 12/12*

There has been a steady stream of Jews into Roumania from the U.S.S.R. during the past two years and many of these have been included in shipments of illegal immigrants to Palestine. Our local sources and information collected in Palestine both confirm that they arrive from the U.S.S.R. without identity papers and are provided with papers by various Roumanian Jewish organisations.

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Reference  
**FO 371/61854**

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6. Major Levy, a serving member of the Allied Control Commission, Soviet section, was publicly engaged in Jewish extremist activities in Roumania. He was in touch constantly with Klarman, and Averbuch, delegates in Roumania of extremist revisionists and Palestine underground movement respectively, and has been seen, on more than one occasion with them at N.K.V.D. H.Q.

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Foreign Office please repeat to Washington as my telegram No.173.

[Repeated to Washington]

QQQ

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Reference

FO 371 / 61854

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

E71

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Helman, D. 10.50 a.m. 17th December, 1947  
No. 1526  
17th December, 1947. R. 11.50 a.m. 17th December, 1947

Repeated to Washington.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1526 of  
December 17th repeated to Washington.

CONFIDENTIAL

Washington telegram No. 6943.

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communication, and readiness with which clearances were  
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remarkable.

5. A considerable proportion of illegal immigrants  
who arrived in Palestinian waters on steamers Paducah and  
Northlands belonged to extreme - left wing Jewish [gp.undec.  
? organisation]s in Roumania and there were among them some  
who had recently arrived from Russia. It is impossible to  
pass the frontier from the U.S.S.R. into Roumania without  
U.S.S.R. approval.

1791/24/51  
E 11994  
18 DEC

18 DEC 1947  
1-9/.....

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Reference  
FO 371 / 6185A



6. Major Levy, a serving member of the Allied Control Commission, Soviet section, was publicly engaged in Jewish extremist activities in Roumania. He was in touch constantly with Klarman, and Averbuch, delegates in Roumania of extremist revisionists and Palestine underground movement respectively, and has been seen, on more than one occasion with them at N.K.V.D. H.Q.

7. Klarman Averbuch Pandelis and others connected with the organisation of this traffic have been given visas in and out of Roumania immediately by the Soviet authorities when even diplomatic visas were granted to other applicants only after interminable delays.

8. Russian military transport has been, and is said to be still being used for transport of Jewish illegal immigrants across Roumania both eastwards and westwards.

Foreign Office please repeat to Washington as my telegram No.173.

[Repeated to Washington]

QQQ

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Reference

FO

371

61854

Registry  
No. E 11994/84/31

OUT FILE

73  
FB/...  
1 ad

Top Secret.  
~~Secret~~  
Confidential.  
~~Restricted~~  
~~Open~~

S.E.C.

J D C

19 Dec

Immediate

Draft.

D.J.  
Mr. Schen  
A.I.S

from  
J.E.  
Mr. Babie  
hope to:

C.O. } usual  
names  
b. hint  
Office

RECEIVED IN  
DIVISION  
NOV 27 1947  
DEPT. OF STATE  
19/12

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(2/47) (14728) Wt. 11489-144 250m 5/47 G.S.S.I.

Dear Schen,

In my letter no. E 11791/84/31 of the 15<sup>th</sup> December, I mentioned the request made by our Embassy in Washington for information about the assistance given by the Soviet authorities to the organizers of Jewish illegal immigration.

2. Bucherent have now given Washington such information as they possess in their telegram no. 1526, of which I enclosed a copy herein. Perhaps you would let me know whether you consider there is anything which we can usefully add to this


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Reference  
FO 371/61854

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this account.

3. I am sending copies  
of this letter to Higham  
and Everhed.

  
18/12

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) J. E. Cable.

73A

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference

FO 371 / 61854

OUT FILE

74

(E 11994/81/31)

IMMEDIATE

POLITION OFFICE,  
S.S.I.

CONFIDENTIAL

19th December, 1947.

Dear Schen,

In my letter No. E 11791/81/31 of the 15th December, I mentioned the request made by our Embassy in Washington for information about the assistance given by the Soviet authorities to the organizers of Jewish illegal immigration.

2. Bucharest have now given Washington such information as they possess in their telegram No. 1526, of which I enclose a copy herein. Perhaps you would let me know whether you consider there is anything which we can usefully add to this account.

3. I am sending copies of this letter to Higham and Overshod.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) (J.E. Cable)

D.J. Schen, Esq.,  
H.I.S.

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Reference

**FO**

371 / 61854

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Registry No.

Top Secret.  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
Open.

Draft.

Tel

to

~~Washington~~

13304

Dec: 24

RECEIVED IN CHIEF  
26 DEC 1947.  
SENT TO DEPT.

Cabinet

Johnson

23.11

OUT FILE

CYPHER

Date 23/12

Despatched

75

Confidential

Bucharest tel. No 1526 6.F.O.

[of Dec 17 : illegal immigration]

You will no doubt

know that Mr Marshall  
General HILLDRING  
& Gen. Hildring are

made aware of this  
information.

J.P. Dec 23

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(14728) (2/47) Wt. 11489-144 250mm 5/47 G.S.S.

740/2

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Reference

FO 371 / 61854

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77

**PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE**

Group, F0.....

Class 371.....

Piece 61854.....

Following document(s)\*  
~~retained in the Department of origin\*~~  
transferred to PRO Safe Room\*

E 11963/84/31

and closed until..... 1998.....

\*delete as necessary

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Reference **FO** 371 / 61854

357

E

76

E 11966

1947

PALESTINE

17 DEC

Registry Number E11966/84/31

FROM:

(Lancery  
Washington

No.

Dated

9/24/47

Received in Registry

11 Dec

17

Illegal Immigration Australia.  
Refer to E 11163 (E 9800/84/71) transmits copy of memo from State Dept in reply to representations made in London re. Also copy of memo of 31 Oct on subject of same Illegal Immigration in Australia.

Last Paper.

11963

(Minutes.)

References.

This is certainly half-hearted. The U.S. authorities on the spot have, however, proved more cooperative and have agreed to our most important requests. I do not think we need press Washington any further at present.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

- 8 C.O. (Mr. Higham)
- M.I.5. (Mr. Robertson)
- Cab Off. (Mr. Evershed)
- H.O. (Mr. Perks)

Dec. 23

Copies to:

- C.O.
  - M.I.5
  - Cabinet Office
  - Home Office
- } usual names

Western Dept. <sup>10/12</sup> 27/12  
 German Pal. Dept. <sup>1:1:48</sup>  
 N.A. Dept. <sup>2/11</sup>

17/12

(Action completed.)

L. C. M. 5-1

(Index.)

11966

Next Paper.

E 11994

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Reference FO 371 61854

79

**BRITISH EMBASSY.**

**WASHINGTON 8, D. C.**

11th December 1947

Ref: G124/-/47  
CONFIDENTIAL

111080  
17 DEC

Dear Department,

We enclose herein copies of a memorandum from the Department of State in reply to the representations which we made as a result of the instructions contained in Foreign Office telegram No.11163 of the 28th October on the subject of Jewish illegal immigrants in Austria. A copy of our own memorandum of the 31st October is also enclosed. This was prepared and communicated to Mr. Loy Henderson after H.M. Ambassador had raised the matter in a general way with Mr. Lovett, who had promised to have it investigated if we would furnish his department with details in writing. The gist of Mr. Marshall's letter to Lord Inverchapel of the 10th November, which is also referred to in the enclosed State Department memorandum, was contained in our telegram No.6451 of the 14th November (not repeated to Paris, Rome, and Vienna).

2. While the enclosed memorandum from the State Department is disappointingly vague and non-committal, and while it is perhaps improbable that effective action will in any case be taken by the American Joint Distribution Committee, the decisions reached at the meeting reported in Vienna telegram No.1084 of the 21st November, coupled with the rather firmer line now being taken by the State Department on illegal immigration generally, appear to offer some hope that the situation in Austria may now improve.

3. We are sending copies of this letter to Paris, Vienna, Rome and Jerusalem.

Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
London, S.W.1.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

*Ja*

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Reference  
**FO 371 / 61854**

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80

MEMORANDUM

The Department of State has received the British Embassy's memorandum of October 31, 1947 concerning the clandestine movement of Jews from Austria into Italy and the reported misuse of former United States Army vehicles and equipment by the American Joint Distribution Committee and similar organizations.

Since receipt of the memorandum the Secretary of State has advised the British Ambassador by letter dated November 10, 1947 of the efforts of this government, including warnings to Jewish leaders, to stop this clandestine activity. In the meantime also, the General Assembly of the United Nations has taken positive action on the question of Palestine which, it is hoped, will bring an end to these movements. In the light of this development the Department will keep under advisement the question of any additional special border control measures which should be taken in the United States Zone of Austria.

The Department is advised that the incident involving the misuse of former Army vehicles and equipment reported to have taken place at the boundary between United States and French Zones of Austria was immediately brought to the attention of responsible representatives of the American Joint Distribution Committee who happened to be in Vienna at the time. These officials stated that the vehicles in question were not operated by the organization, and took steps immediately to identify to responsible authorities in Austria and Italy all vehicles and personnel currently employed in the relief activities of the organization.

Department of State,

Washington,

December 6, 1947

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Reference

**FO** 371 / 61854



4. The largest concentration of Jews in Austria is in the United States zone. It is understood that the policy of the United States zonal authorities has hitherto been neither to aid nor to hinder the movement of Jews and that they are unlikely to feel able to alter this policy without instructions from Washington.

5. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom accordingly request that the authorities in the United States zone may be moved to prevent Jews from crossing into the French zone and to take back those who do.

6. His Majesty's Government are also anxious that action should be taken to prevent the misuse by the American Joint Distribution Committee and similar organisations of ex-United States Army vehicles and equipment. The following is a typical instance of such misuse. At the end of May five hundred Jews arrived at the boundary between the United States and French zones led by an A.J.D.C. jeep containing a man in United States Army uniform who threatened the Austrian gendarme with a tommy-gun when the latter attempted to halt the convoy. It is suggested that if organisations such as the American Joint Distribution Committee were compelled to paint their ex-United States Army vehicles a different colour and to dye their ex-United States Army uniforms, this equipment could no longer be used to disguise the true nature of such convoys and thus prevent Jewish organisations from deriving indirect aid from a misuse of ex-United States Army equipment.

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 31st, 1947

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References

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61854

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353

E

12054

83

1947

19 DEC

PALESTINE

Registry Number } L-12054/84/31

FROM Lord Inneschapel (Washington)

No. 2708 (8.24/670/17)

Dated 13 Dec.

Received in Registry } 19 Dec.

"Col. F.C. Johnson"

Copy of Aide memoire to State Dept. of Dec 13. giving reasons why H.M.C. are suspicious of 'Col. F.C. Johnson'. Requests that U.S. govt. will continue to detain the subj.

Last Paper.

E 11964

(Minutes.)

Copies to: C.O. } named names  
M.I.5 }

19/12

References.

E 11963  
E 9813

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Higham. 80  
Robertson 11/15  
Dec. 29

(Action completed.)

12/20/48

(Index.)

12/14/48

Next Paper.

E 12065

29470 F.O.P.

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Reference FO 371/61854

No. 2708

8.124/5747  
C165/747

84

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Washington presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Embassy  
Washington, D. C.

13th December 1919  
DEC

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Aide Memoire to State Department 13th December.	SS COL.F.C. JOHNSON

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Reference

FO

971 / 61854

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85  
6.124/470/47  
Ref: 6167/1/47  
~~SECRET~~

### A I D E M E M O I R E

Various discussions have taken place between the British Embassy and the State Department concerning a ship named the COLONEL FREDERICK C. JOHNSON, now in Norfolk, Virginia, concerning which the British Government entertained suspicions in connexion with the transport of illegal immigrants to Palestine. Mention was made of this ship in Lord Inverchapel's letter to the Secretary of State of the 18th October and in the Secretary of State's reply of the 10th November.

2. The British Government warmly appreciate the sympathetic attention which the State Department has given to their representations on this matter. They have examined the documents produced and the statements made by Samuel Derektor, the owner of the vessel, regarding the use to which he claims she is to be put. They regret, however, that they are still not satisfied of the innocence of the enterprise. Their reasons for suspicion are briefly the following:

- (a) The vessel is owned by Derektor, who sold the PRESIDENT WARFIELD to the Weston Trading Company, who sent her to Palestine.
- (b) Her overhaul was arranged by Captain Ash, former president of the Weston Trading Company.
- (c) Her Norfolk agents, the Alcoa Steamship Company, were those of the PRESIDENT WARFIELD.
- (d) Morris Ginsberg, who is associated with her,

/supplied

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371 / 61854					
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supplied oil to the PRESIDENT WARFIELD.

(e) Derecktor admitted in the affidavit which he sent to the British Embassy that she was unseaworthy and unserviceable and that her usefulness was limited to coastal trade. Yet Dr. Kahn, who is a Dutch cinema proprietor without shipping experience, is willing to invest large sums in a company which intends to operate her through the Bay of Biscay.

(f) Hans Kahn, who is Dr. Kahn's son, is a confessed "ardent Zionist".

(g) It is known that Kahn has offered a ship (ostensibly for legal immigration) to the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem.

In his statements to the British Embassy Derecktor has made no mention of any connexion between the Kahns and Palestine. In addition to point (g) in the preceding paragraph, it is known that Hans Kahn is connected with the Atid Navigation Company of Palestine and that he has applied for an entry permit to that country. It may also be relevant to mention, for the confidential information of the State Department, that Captain Ash, while still president of the Weston Trading Company, sent to the Honduran Consulate-General in New York an affidavit signed in January 1947 before a Notary Public in New York, to the effect that the PRESIDENT WARFIELD would not, while in possession of the Weston Trading Company, be used for the transfer of illegal immigrants to Palestine. This affidavit was sent to the British

/Embassy

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Reference  
**FO** 371 / 61854

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Embassy by the Honduran Embassy in Washington. So far as is known, the PRESIDENT WARFIELD did not pass out of the possession of the Weston Trading Company between the time of her departure from the United States and the time of her interception off the coast of Palestine with illegal immigrants on board.

4. Stronger evidence than that given above can rarely be expected against suspected ships until they actually begin fitting bunks and taking on supplies in a European port. In view of the COLONEL FREDERICK C. JOHNSON's large capacity and of the present critical situation in Palestine, the British Government consider that her release would entail a very great risk. The PAN CRESCENT and PAN YORK have so far been detained at Constanza by the refusal of the Roumanian Government to supply fuel, but their continued co-operation cannot be counted upon and there is thus still a grave danger that some 16,000 illegal immigrants may reach Palestine waters, with the consequences mentioned in Lord Inverchapel's letter to the Secretary of State of the 18th October. It may also be relevant to mention that the extent to which the British Government can influence the Arabs towards moderation in regard to Palestine will be considerably affected by their success in preventing illegal Jewish immigration.

5. The British Government do not consider that Derecktor's affidavit is of real value, since, when a

/similar

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371 / 61854					
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similar case arose in a British port, advice was given than that even if such an affidavit were legally binding, it might be very difficult to collect damages for its breach. They would prefer either that Derektor should sign a charter party giving Rotterdam Lloyd, or another firm of undoubted integrity, full control over the operation of the ship, or that reputable Netherlands interests should have sufficient control over Brownsam Inc., the Panamanian corporation formed by Derektor for the purpose of operating the ship under Panamanian flag, to prevent Derektor from using the ship in illegal traffic or selling her to a third party. An endeavour will be made to obtain a safeguard of this sort, but in the meantime it would be very greatly appreciated by the British Government if the United States Government could continue to detain this ship, in view of the many reasons given above for suspecting her bona fides.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
 WASHINGTON, D.C.,  
 13th December, 1947.

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**FO**  
 371 / 61854

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355

E

90

1947

PALESTINE

12102

22 DEC

Registry Number

E12102/84/31

FROM

Legal

No.

P.Q.

Dated

Received in Registry

17 Dec

Transportation of Illegal Immigrants  
Legal ships which are still available to the Port of Palestine for the transportation of illegal immigrants. How long these ships will continue to be available, and what is to be their ultimate disposal. Milner's terms referred first part to reply given 5 Nov. Vessels will continue to be available as long as they are required.

Last Paper.

12065 (10446)

(Minutes.)

*[Signature]*  
23/12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

*[Signature]* 23/12

(Index.)

*[Signature]* 23/12

Next Paper.

12114

29470 F.O.P.

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Reference

FO 371 / 61854

EASTERN

91 E

Parliamentary Question

\*161. Dr. Segal.—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, what ships are still available to the Government of Palestine for the transhipment of unauthorised Jewish immigrants; how long these ships will continue to be available; and what is to be their ultimate disposal.  
[Wednesday 17th December.]

17 DEC 1947

*Lab*

*Proton*

ANSWERED 17 DEC 1947  
REPLY ATTACHED.

F.O. ARE NOT ASKED TO ADVISE

*attach reply*  
*[Signature]*

12102  
22 DEC

*1698.*

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Reference  
**FO** 371 / 61854

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91A

**Jewish Immigrants  
(Transhipment)**

44. **Dr. Segal** asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what ships are still available to the Government of Palestine for the transhipment of unauthorised Jewish immigrants; how long these ships will continue to be available; and what is to be their ultimate disposal.

**Mr. Creech Jones:** With regard to the first part of the Question, there has been no change since the reply given to my hon. Friend on 5th November. These vessels will continue to be available so long as they are required for their present purpose. Questions regarding their future disposal should be addressed to the Minister of Transport.

**Dr. Segal:** Is my right hon. Friend aware that the sooner these ships revert to their original purpose of carrying food supplies to this country, the better it will be for all concerned?

17 DEC 1947

RECEIVED IN O.B.  
19 DEC 1947  
SENT TO DEPT.  
22 DEC 1947

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Reference

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117

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92

1947

PALESTINE

12118

22 DEC

Registry Number } E12118/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

(U) Powell  
Bucharest

1541

20 Dec

22

"Pau" (normal) and "Pau" (fake)  
After Bucharest tel 1502 (E11834/84/31) reliable report  
steals "Pau" ship "one due to leave Bucharest  
without passengers 20th or 21. Both equipped to  
take 1000 immigrants and crew. said to be leaving  
for Sardinia port. another report says that  
ship will call at a Bulgarian port to embark  
illegal immigrants from Romania who are  
going to Bulgaria by train.

Last Paper.

(11994)  
12117

References.

(Minutes.)

Please see separate minute and also

E 12140.

*[Signature]*  
23/12

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 P.P. (on E11837)  
Dec 30

(Action completed.)

*[Signature]*  
10/12

(Index.)

*[Signature]*  
12/18/48

Next Paper.

(12100)

12120

30471 F.O.P

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Reference  
FO 371 / 61854

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93

Cypher/OTP

12118  
22 DEC

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Sarell  
No. 1541  
20th December, 1947

D: 11.50 a.m. 20th December, 1947  
R: 1.05 p.m. 20th December, 1947

Repeated to: Angora  
Sofia  
Jerusalem  
Belgrade  
Cairo (Middle East Office)  
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Malta  
Washington

IMMEDIATE

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1541 December 20th  
repeated to Angora, Sofia, Jerusalem, Belgrade, British Middle  
East Office, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Malta and Washington.

Restricted.

by telegram No. 1502.

Reliable reports state that S.S. Pan Crescent and Pan York  
are due to leave Constanza without passengers tonight or tomorrow  
morning.

- 2. They are equipped to take 6000 immigrants each and are  
said to be leaving for Yugoslav port.
- 3. Another report says that they will call at a Bulgarian  
port to embark illegal immigrants from Roumania who are going to  
Bulgaria by train.
- 4. Places of embarkation are not yet confirmed.

Foreign Office please pass to Angora, Jerusalem, Middle  
East Office Cairo, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Malta and  
Washington as my telegrams Nos. 50, 75, 27, 16 and 175  
respectively.

[Repeated to Angora, British Middle East Office and  
Washington.  
Copies sent to telegraph Section, Colonial Office for  
repetition to Jerusalem and Malta].

G G G G

22 DEC 1947

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Reference  
FO 371 / 61854

1947

PALESTINE

E 12120

22 DEC

Registry Number } E12120/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

London  
Washington

7110

19 Dec

22 -

Colonel F. B. Johnson:

Refer to tel 12122 (E11837/84/31) Male sent  
have been informed of new developments. Any  
objections of fact mentioned & directed,  
should be given account that there are  
no reasonable grounds for suspicion.

Last Paper.

12118

References.

(Minutes.)

Min. of Inf. have consulted their  
contact on the insurance market, who sees  
no objection. Telegram to Washington  
accordingly.

*[Signature]*  
23/12

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, I.P.P. (on E11837)  
Dec 30

tel, Washington  
13250

Intd. Hogue 229  
Panama 30 } Pending  
C.S. New York 10

23 Dec.  
8, I.P.P. (on E11837)  
Dec 30

(Action completed.)

*[Signature]*  
19/12

(Index.)

*[Signature]*  
12/12

Next Paper.

E12140

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References  
FO 371/61854

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

95

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel D.12.1 a.m. 20th December, 1947.  
No.7110 R.6 .40 a.m. 20th December, 1947.  
19th December, 1947.

Repeated to The Hague )  
Panama ) Saving  
New York )  
Jerusalem)

12:20  
22 DEC

IMPORTANT  
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.7110  
of 19th December, repeated Saving to The Hague, Panama  
New York and Jerusalem.

Your telegram No.15122:- Jewish Illegal Immigration.

State Department have been informed of this new  
development. Would you object to our mentioning  
the fact to Derecktor, should he again assert that  
there are no reasonable grounds for suspicion?

Foreign Office please pass Saving to the The  
Hague and Jerusalem as my telegrams Nos.24 and 9.

[Repeated Saving to The Hague]

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office  
for transmission by confidential bag to Jerusalem].

B B B

22 DEC 1947  
XII XI I II III  
XIX XVIII XVII XVI XV XIV

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Reference  
**FO**  
371 / 6185A

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Registry  
No. E 12120/84/31

J.R.C.

Top Secret
Secret
<del>Confidential</del>
Restricted
Open

OUT FILE

96

F.O.,

23/12 1947

Important

Despatched 5 52 PM.

Draft.

~~Washington~~

Telegram.

No. 13250

(Date) Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>

Repeat to:-  
 The Hague <sup>AKL SAVING</sup> 22990V.  
 Panama 3039V.  
 New York (Consul-General) 1089V.  
 Jerusalem

En Clave  
 Code. RECEIVED IN C.B.  
 Cypher. 26 DEC 1947

Distribution:-

Departmental No. 1

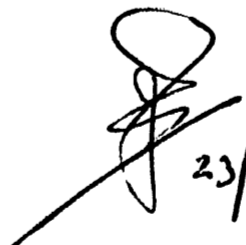
Copies to:-

I.I.P.

Addressed Washington telegram  
 no 13250 December 23<sup>rd</sup> and repeated  
 for information saving to The Hague,  
 Panama, New York (Consul-General)  
 and Jerusalem.

Your telegram no. 7110 [of  
 19<sup>th</sup> December: Jewish illegal  
 immigration]

No objection

  
 23/12

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

345/20

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Reference

FO

371

61854

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OUT FILE

97

Enclair

E.12120/84/31.

Restricted.

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No. 13250.

D: 5.32 p.m. 23rd December, 1947.

23rd December, 1947.

Repeated to: The Hague, No. 229, )  
Panama No. 30, )  
New York (Consul-General) No. 10, ) Saving.  
Jerusalem. )

IMPORTANT

Addressed Washington telegram No. 13250 December 23rd  
repeated for information saving to The Hague, Panama, New  
York (Consul-General) and Jerusalem.

Your telegram No. 7,110 [of 19th December: Jewish  
illegal immigration].

No objection.

@@@

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Reference

FO

371

61854

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1947

E

12140

08

22 DEC

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E12140/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

M. Farrell

No.

Becherant

Dated

15 46

Received in Registry

22 Dec

22

*The Becherant - a Pan of ark -  
After Becherant left 15 46 (E12140/84/31) Pan Becherant  
left Becherant for unknown destination Monday 22nd.  
He carried no passengers. Pan of ark is still at  
Becherant but expected to leave 22nd or 23rd.*

Last Paper.

(12119)

12120

References.

(Minutes.)

*The Navy will shadow them if  
they leave the Black Sea.*

*Please see separate minute*

*J 23/12*

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

*Y. I. P. (on E11837)  
Dec 30*

(Action completed.)

*J 22/12*

(Index)

*J 22/12*

Next Paper.

E12161

30471 F.O.P.

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12120  
20 DEC 1

99  
END

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Sarell. D. 9.24 a.m. 22nd December, 1947.  
No. 1546  
R. 9.55 a.m. 22nd December, 1947.  
22nd December, 1947.

Repeated to Angora,  
Jerusalem,  
Washington,  
Sofia,  
British Middle East Office Cairo,  
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean,  
Moscow,  
Belgrade.

IMMEDIATE

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1546 of 22nd December, repeated to Angora, Jerusalem, Sofia, British Middle East Office Cairo, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, Washington, Moscow and Belgrade.

My telegram No. 1541. E

S.S. Pan Crescent left Constantza for unknown destination this morning, Monday. She carried no passengers.

2. S.S. Pan York is still at Constantza but is expected to leave today or tomorrow.

Foreign Office repeat to Washington, Moscow and immediate to Angora, Jerusalem, British Middle East Office Cairo, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean as my telegrams Nos. 178, 181, 51, 76, 28 and 17 respectively.

[Repeated to Washington, Moscow, Angora and British Middle East Office Cairo. Copies sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem and Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean].

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Reference  
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DEC 22 1947